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A family stranded by yesterday's strike waits for things to start moving again at Ben-Gurion Airport. (Dana Steman/Israel Sun)

Strike strands thousands at B-G

Histadrut plans more stoppages

HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

THOUSANDS of workers protesting against planned cuts in government spending and increased taxes staged a one-day strike yesterday, disrupting international flights, shutting down the ports, and disrupting train and phone services.

All flights leaving Ben-Gurion Airport were delayed until yesterday evening. Incoming flights were allowed to land but airport workers did not unload baggage, an airport spokesman said.

The strike also closed Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat seaports.

The Histadrut said it planned strikes in other sectors in coming days, and threatened to stage a general strike Tuesday, when the Knesset is due to vote on the 1997 budget.

The Histadrut called the strike, saying the government's plans for cutting spending and raising revenue would hurt the poor.

"Unfortunately, the rules of the game have been violated. We wanted to be in favor of the government...but the workers feel someone is waiting for them at the corner," said Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz.

Peretz, a Labor MK, said the government's budget proposal and privatization plans would sharply

- Striking today**
- Bezeq
 - Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat ports
- Planned for Monday**
- Banks
 - Ben-Gurion Airport
 - Health services
 - Local authorities

At Ben-Gurion Airport, a few dozen tourists from Europe took advantage of the extra hours in Israel to sun themselves outside the terminal, but hundreds of others milled about, waiting impatiently.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said that the company had succeeded in moving up five flights to before the strike began, contacting about 1,000 passengers. Another 3,000 passengers had to wait, uncertain when their flights would take off.

The strike had originally been called for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., but it actually began at 7 a.m. and lasted until 4, stranding thousands of passengers who had expected to be able to fly despite the work action.

British Airways officials, for example, had thought they would have no problem with their 8 a.m. flight to London, but over 200 passengers had to wait several hours for their flight to take off, a company spokesman said.

Many of the passengers slept in terminal chairs and all of the terminal restaurants were full. Those who succeeded in getting to the departing passengers' lounges filled the duty-free shops.

Passengers arriving on the planes that landed during the strike were told that their luggage

(Continued on Page 18)

Arafat: Hebron deal by Tuesday

An agreement on redeployment in Hebron is likely by Tuesday, and further redeployment of IDF troops from areas B and C should take place 45 days later, with final settlement talks start 15 days after that, Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat told members of the A Legislative Council yesterday.

However, Saeb Erekat, chief Palestinian negotiator in the Hebron talks, said that Tuesday is a "target date" and "no specific dates" had yet been set for further redeployment or final settlement talks. Erekat also qualified some of Arafat's reported remarks.

Upon his return to Washington yesterday, US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross briefed President Bill Clinton on the Hebron negotiations. Clinton was "pleased by the progress" and gave Ross "instructions on how to proceed when he returns to the region," which will

JON IMMANUEL

probably be on Monday, spokeswoman April Melody told reporters.

In Ramallah, among other decisions made during the past few days, legislators at the meeting reported that Arafat said:

- Palestinian police will carry "equivalent" weapons to IDF troops. But not necessarily the same weapons, Erekat said.
- There will be no buffer zone between H-1 and H-2, "because that would make an H-3," Erekat confirmed this, saying instead of a buffer zone there will be "security arrangements."
- There will be a Palestinian checkpoint at the entrance to the Cave of Machpela. This will not be immediate since the agreement calls for a review of the current arrangements only after

three months, Erekat said.

- Shuhada Street, which runs from the center of Hebron past Beit Hadassah to the market next to the Avraham Avinu quarter, will be reopened completely within four months.
- The market next to the Avraham Avinu quarter will be reopened as a retail market. Erekat said all that now remains is to clear up some security arrangements, which will be dealt with in a meeting between security officials from both sides today.

Arafat spoke to legislators in Ramallah for more than three hours, interrupted by frequent questions about settlements. Painting a picture of future developments in Hebron, Arafat said he told Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that in talks with former prime ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres it had been

(Continued on Page 18)

Report: Shahor wants to resign from IDF today

MAJ.-GEN. Oren Shahor, coordinator of government activities in the territories, plans to inform Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today that he wants to resign from the IDF, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Shahor has informed senior civil administration officials and plans to tell Mordechai officially this morning, he radio report said.

Shahor's spokesman would not confirm or deny the report.

"If and when the general decides to resign, there will

be an official announcement of this," he said.

Shahor also revealed that Lt.-Col. Daniel Riesner, the Defense Ministry's legal adviser, had replaced him in the talks with the Palestinians on civilian issues that resumed Wednesday.

After an unauthorized meeting with opposition leader Shimon Peres about two months ago, the government suspended Shahor from his duties as a negotiator with the Palestinians. A security source cited this as one of the reasons Shahor has apparently decided to resign. (Itim)

Woman climbs 12-meter anchor chain to escape drowning

Husband and son presumed dead after night swim

33-YEAR-OLD woman who, ether with her husband and son, s pulled out by an undertow while swimming off a Tel Aviv ch on Wednesday night, managed to save herself from drowning climbing up a ship's 12-meter anchor chain to safety.

he man, 37, and the boy, 9, are missing. The Coast Guard, navy police searched for the two yesterday to no avail.

o Kulsanikov family - Irena, olai and their son, Oleg - went nning off the old Sheraton h at around 7:30 Wednesday .

fter swimming out around 300 rs, the three felt that they were

RAINE MARCUS and Itim

being pulled out to sea by an undertow, and decided to swim towards a ship that was anchored offshore, that they apparently thought was closer to them that it actually was.

During the five-hour swim, Irena lost eye contact with Nikolai, but continued swimming towards the ship, dragging Oleg by the hair.

As she got near the boat, however, she lost hold of her son.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Beilin-Eitan paper on final status with PA almost ready

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan may, within a month, be able to present Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and opposition leader Shimon Peres with a working paper summarizing their discussions on permanent arrangements with the Palestinians, Beilin said yesterday.

He declined to specify what had been agreed so far. Beilin and Eitan were interviewed on the issue by Arabic Television.

The two have been meeting with MKs from their respective parties for several weeks to see if the two sides can reach a consensus on issues relating to the permanent arrangements. Beilin said the meetings are aimed at furthering the peace process by speeding up the implementation of the permanent arrangements.

Both Beilin and Eitan denied they were trying to bring about the establishment of a national unity government. "But [the talks] are important because the two main parties must know where they stand on different issues before

LIAT COLLINS

they have to face the Palestinians with them," Eitan said.

"On some points, there is a good chance we will reach an understanding," he added. "If we do, we will put out a paper emphasizing these unifying points, without hesitating to note also the points we differ on."

Eitan, unlike Beilin, would not say when he thought such a working paper would be ready.

"We have been meeting out of curiosity, to see whether we are able to make the most out of the reality, which some of us feel is very harsh," Eitan said. "The question is whether we will do this with unrealistic aims, which will ultimately achieve nothing, or by trying to extract the possible, create a broad national consensus and make the most of the circumstances."

Beilin said the common basis is broader than it had been. He said that most of the issues had been dealt with although "not all had been agreed on."

Beilin, a candidate for the Labor Party leadership, is also the initiator of the so-called Beilin-Abu Mazen Plan, which, among other things, calls for Israel to annex the large blocs of Jewish settlements in return for giving the Palestinians an area close to the Egyptian border and a demilitarized Palestinian state with its capital based in Abu Dis, just outside Jerusalem.

National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat said it was unfortunate that Eitan had volunteered to replace senior Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) in promoting such an agreement. "We didn't need Eitan to reach these agreements. It would be better if he kept silent and not spread despair around the national camp."

Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) said his faction was concerned by what it had heard of the Beilin-Eitan talks.

"The Third Way agrees to redeployment in Hebron, but not to a general suction of Judea and Samaria and Jerusalem," he said.



Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein looks down at the Hebron market during a tour of the city yesterday. Edelstein announced yesterday that he intends to vote against the Hebron redeployment agreement. (Yitzhak Elmalich/Flash)

3 injured fleeing Border Police

THREE people were slightly to moderately injured yesterday when their car swerved into a ditch and overturned while they were being pursued by border policemen. The driver apparently ignored the policemen's signal to stop because his passengers were illegal workers from the territories. The injured were taken to Afula's Ha'erenek Hospital.

Isa Tarbieh, 86, of Sakhnin, died Wednesday night at Nahariya Government Hospital of injuries sustained several hours previously when she was hit by a car on Sakhnin's main street. (Itim)

Netanyahu struggles for right-wing's support of Hebron deal

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu worked hard yesterday to win more support from the Right for his Hebron deal, but so far he has not improved his standing among ministers, coalition MKs or the rank and file.

Likud Central Committee members yesterday published a petition calling on the government "not to abandon Hebron, not to allow armed Palestinian policemen into Hebron and not to turn over to Arafat civilian authority for the Jewish section of the city." Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir heads the list of signatories; it is the first time Shamir has come out so forcibly and openly against Netanyahu's

moves.

In the cabinet, Netanyahu suffered another blow when Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein announced he would vote against the agreement. Edelstein, who toured Hebron yesterday, told Channel 2 he was concerned with the small size of the buffer zone between the Palestinian and Jewish sections, and the proximity of the Abraham Avinu complex to the Hebron market, which would be reopened under Palestinian control.

Edelstein is the fifth minister to announce his opposition to the agreement; the others are National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Science Minister

SARAH HONIG

Ze'ev Begin, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky have not yet committed themselves one way or the other, while Communications Minister Limor Livnat is now reported to be harboring deep reservations.

In the Knesset, National Religious Party and Likud MKs are banding together to revive the Eretz Yisrael Front as a

parliamentary pressure group, especially during the next phase of the Oslo Accords.

Some of those involved, like Likud MK David Re'em, say they will join Mokedet in the no-confidence motion against the government on the Hebron issue. MK Reuven Rivlin, considered a relative moderate, has also joined the group.

"The front will number some 20 MKs and will constitute a powerful enough parliamentary force which the government will be unable to ignore," Re'em said.

The Likud petition also was signed by former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office Yosef Ben-Aharon,

who was a central figure in peace negotiations during the Shamir administration. Other signatories included Miriam Glazer-Tasa, Esther Salmovitz, David Mena and Michael Ratson, as well as the head of the national Betar leadership, Eldad Halahmi.

Netanyahu walked into the Knesset last night when he attended the opening session of the Mokedet convention, to which he had been invited as the guest of honor prior to his meeting with Arafat this week and the latest moves to conclude the deal on Hebron.

Netanyahu was greeted with applause, but also plenty of boos.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the king of hearts, the eight of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

In last night's weekly Paysis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 784928 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 318538 was good for a new car.

Those holding tickets ending in 011860, 002222, 111423, 392807, 303378, 461820, 219936 and 063131 all won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 74263, 11207, 15668, 35140, 75224, 37000, 06923, 57668, 52200, 03539, 13096, 00871, 53835, 71586, 82374, 63675, 92864, 62245 and 209663 all were good for NIS 1,000. Those ending in 755, 330, 941 and 680 were good for NIS 100; in 85, 80, 50 or 13, NIS 30; in 21 or 09, NIS 20; and in 4 or 6 NIS 10.

Islamic Jihad terror attacks expected near Netzarim

SECURITY sources expect the Islamic Jihad to begin a new wave of terror attacks against army installations and civilian sites in the area of Netzarim in Gaza, saying that the bombs that exploded last week on the road near Netzarim were detonated by a Jihad cell in formation.

The sources noted that terror activity in the Netzarim area had stopped once the road that passes near the settlement was closed to Palestinian traffic, after a suicide bomber rid-

HERB KEINON and ITIM

ing a bicycle killed three soldiers at the Netzarim Junction in November 1994. The road was reopened to Palestinian police vehicles, ambulance, and UN cars yesterday.

Shimon Ziv, a spokeswoman for the settlement, said that the IDF plans to gradually open the road to all Palestinian cars, something she

said is a security risk since the road runs within 20 meters of the settlement.

Netzarim residents postponed further protest action against the opening of the road, pending the outcome of a meeting last night between the settlement's leadership and OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shimon Yona. Ziv said that after the meeting with Yona, the settlement's residents will meet and decide what protest action - if any - to take.

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Israel complains about Italy's pressure over Ras al-Amud

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL has complained to the Italian government to complain about Rome's support for a Security Council plan to dispatch a fact-finding mission to investigate construction of a Jewish neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud neighborhood.

Israel has informally put the Ras al-Amud issue on hold, thus supporting its contention that this is not the time for the Security Council to get involved in the matter.

Officials in Jerusalem say that the force behind the Italian government's involvement is Yasser Arafat, who just visited Italy. Netanyahu is expected to visit Italy and the Vatican at the end of next month.

Officials say Israel is considering raising with the Palestinians the idea of a "code of conduct," whereby the two sides would agree on ground rules of action as negotiations proceed. As is evidenced by this matter, Israel is upset that Arafat is lobbying foreign governments to oppose Israel on specific diplomatic issues.

book department

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Tanya Shaw, who was fired this summer from her position as nanny for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's children, speaks to the press yesterday in the Jerusalem Regional Labor Court, where she has filed suit against the Netanyahus for non-payment of overtime. The court ordered Sara Netanyahu to submit a written declaration detailing Shaw's work conditions. (Efraim Kishitok)

State presents High Court with evidence of Malevsky's 'criminal past'

RUSSIAN businessman Anton Malevsky lied on his citizenship application when he declared that he was not wanted by the Russian authorities, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

Malevsky had petitioned the court against the Interior Ministry's decision to confiscate his passport, which was based on police intelligence information indicating that he was an organized crime kingpin. After a previous hearing, the court had given Malevsky's attorney, Yoram Sheftel, additional time to try to refute these allegations.

At yesterday's hearing, Sheftel came in with a letter from the Russian Interior Ministry's department of organized crime, which said "no charges relating to criminal activity have been attributed" to Malevsky. Furthermore, Sheftel said, Malevsky has gone to Russia several times in the past two years and he has never been detained.

Government attorney Shai Nitzan then produced a letter from a department of the same name, but with a different address, which said Malevsky was wanted in Russia for "serious crimes committed in the city of Moscow" and that an arrest warrant had been issued for him.

Nitzan also presented a copy of the arrest warrant. The warrant, which was dated February 4, 1994, was for the illegal purchase of a TT pistol and 30 bullets. According to this document, in July 1993, a Russian court had barred Malevsky from leaving the country because of the police investigation into this charge. However, after Malevsky ignored two summonses to appear for questioning and disappeared from his previous address, the police declared him wanted and issued an arrest warrant.

A letter from the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of the Russian Federation, which Nitzan also submitted yesterday, stated that the arrest warrant had remained

in force until June 27, 1996, when the police decided to close the criminal proceedings against Malevsky. On December 23, however, the Office of the Chief Prosecutor decided to overturn this decision, on the grounds that it had been made illegally, the letter said.

Finally, Nitzan said, he had received classified information on Malevsky from the Russian authorities, which he presented to the court behind closed doors.

Nitzan noted that on Malevsky's application for citizenship, in June 1994, he had claimed he was not wanted by the Russian authorities. This, however, turned out to be a false declaration, since the arrest warrant against him was still standing at that date, Nitzan said.

Malevsky repeated this lie in his affidavit to the High Court, Nitzan added.

However, he said, the state cur-

rently has no intention of trying to revoke Malevsky's citizenship because of his false statement. Sheftel also argued that since no native-born Israeli has ever been deprived of his passport, the decision to take away Malevsky's passport constituted discrimination against immigrants.

"No one born in Israel ever got his [Israeli] citizenship via fraud," Nitzan retorted.

Sheftel then asked the court for additional time to try to refute the new evidence brought by Nitzan. Justices Tova Strasberg-Cohen, Dalia Dorner and Zvi Tal said they would consider this request and get back to him with an answer later.

After the hearing, Sheftel attacked the prosecution and the police.

"The prosecution and the police are going out of their way to pressure the Russian authorities into opening criminal proceedings

EVELYN GORDON

Survey: Most people say media not objective

OVER 75% of the population say the mass media lacks objectivity when it reports on the government or on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

These figures are the results of a countrywide survey by the Community Research Institute at Bar-Ilan University. The survey also showed a widespread lack of belief (66%) in the media's objectivity in general.

The recent phone poll surveyed 1,250 adults "in a certified representative sample from Metula to Eilat," said CRI head Ya'akov Katz, who initiated the project. According to Katz, half of those polled identified themselves as

right-wing and the other half identified themselves as left-wing. Breaking down the results ideologically, the survey found that 92% of right-wingers and 62% of left-wingers feel the media are not objective in their treatment of the government (77% of the population overall). Of those who said the media was not objective, 95% of right-wingers and 79% of left-wingers said the bias was against the government.

With regard to the media's treatment of Netanyahu, 96% of right-wingers and 56% of left-wingers

consider the media to be non-objective (76% overall). Of these, 96% of right-wingers and 80% of left-wingers thought the bias was against the prime minister.

The poll also asked whether the media reported objectively on the IDF and other security forces in the territories. Overall, 31% of the respondents thought the media was objective, while 17% were undecided. The 52% who said the media was not objective included 69% of the right-wingers surveyed and 35% of the left-wingers. Of these, 88% of right-wingers and 64% of left-wingers thought the bias was against the army.

HELEN KAYE and EVELYN GORDON

Bone-marrow drive for London student begins next week

JUDY SIEGEL

A BONE-MARROW testing drive will be held on Tuesday in Jerusalem and Ramat Gan to try to save the life of David Brown, a 27-year-old Jewish economics student from London. A suitable match is more likely to be found among Jews of Ashkenazi origin, according to the organizers from Kedma, a religious students' organization in Jerusalem.

Brown, who has taken a leave of absence from his studies at Thames Valley University to undergo chemotherapy, suffers from acute lymphoblastic leukemia and his condition is deteriorating. No tissue matches have been found in any of the bone-marrow registries in Israel or abroad, so more samples must be collected. Thousands of people in Britain and the US already have been tested as potential donors for Brown, but none was found to be a perfect match.

Kedma, along with Magen David Adom, the Sue Harris Foundation and Bnei Akiva, hope thousands of

healthy people aged 18 to 50 will volunteer to give a small amount of blood for tissue-type matching. If a person is found to be a suitable match, a teaspoonful of marrow is removed under anesthesia from a bone in the hip and transfused into the recipient. This could bolster Brown's immune system and cure him. Anyone whose blood is tested will be listed in a bone-marrow registry, possibly to be matched with some other needy person in the future.

The organizers are raising money for the collection of samples and their testing, while El Al will fly them free to England for processing.

Volunteers willing to give a blood sample should go on Tuesday to Magen David Adom's Jerusalem branch in Romema between 2 and 9 p.m. or to Bar-Ilan University's chemistry building from 3 to 7 p.m. Information may be obtained by calling Kedma at (02) 563-1340.

A needle in a haystack

ALTHOUGH the chance of finding a perfect match for David Brown is on a par with looking for a needle in a haystack, previous bone-marrow drives here and abroad have saved the lives of at least two Jews suffering from leukemia.

One, Jay Feinberg of the US, waited several years before a suitable donor was found. It was a young woman, officially a bit too young to donate and who was found after tens of thousands of people were tested. She insisted on having a blood sample taken from her arm and sent for testing - and in the end, she was the best match.

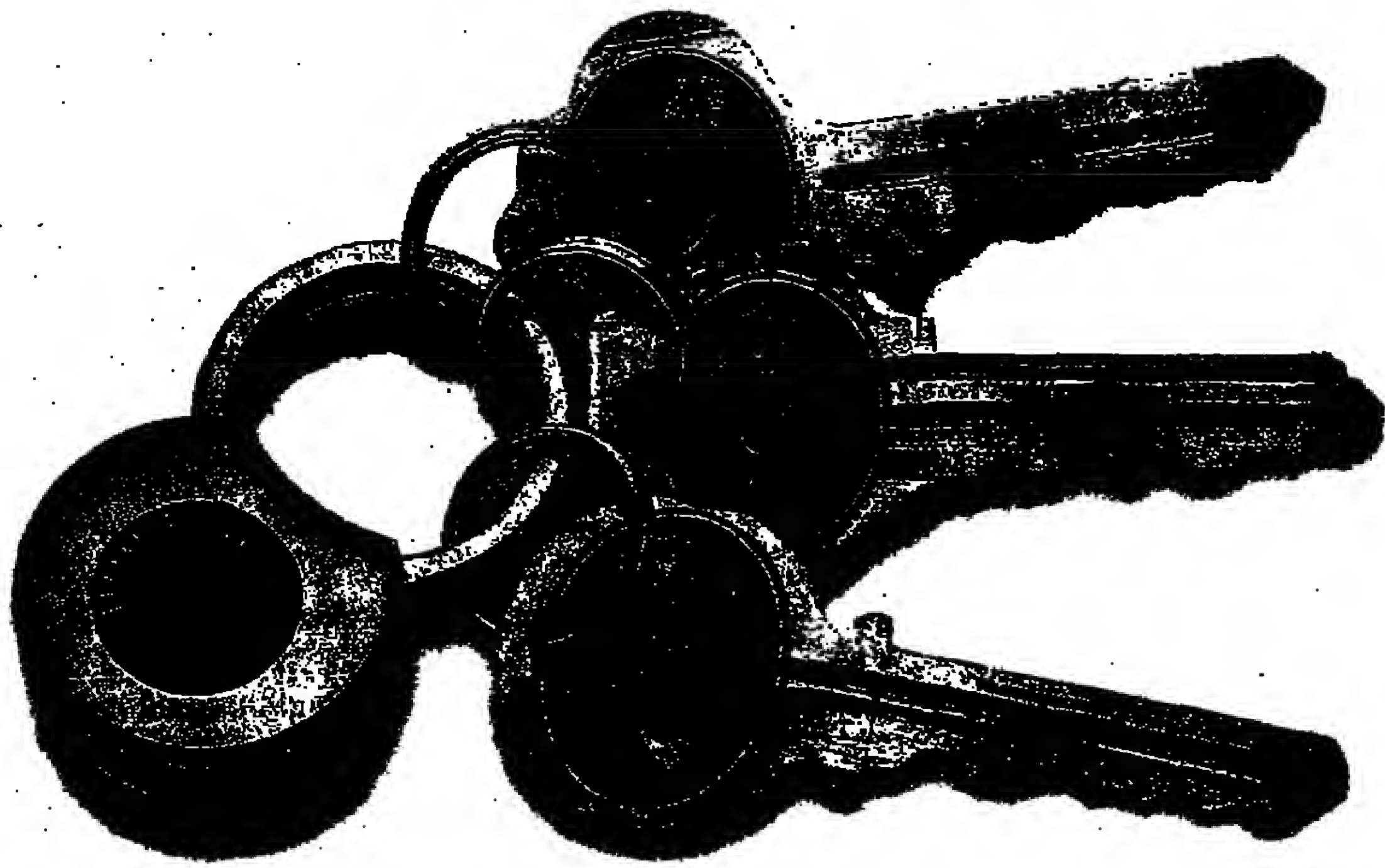
Feinberg, who received a tiny bit of her bone marrow, is now healthy enough to have returned to work as an economist.

Sue Harris, a British woman for whom a similar campaign was held here, found a donor and is now doing well.

Because similar ethnic origins have an important role in determining tissue compatibility, many Diaspora Jews who cannot find a suitable donor abroad seek one here.

Judy Siegel

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OPINION

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Family politics

THE concept of the "First Family" is a peculiarly American one, imported to Israel by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The fact that Netanyahu has showcased his family in political settings does not, however, grant license to the media to make fun of a five-year-old child.

In the past week, two of Israel's premier satirical programs, *Hartza'im* on Channel 2 and *The Cameri Quintet* on Channel 1, included skits spoofing Yair Netanyahu, the prime minister's five-year-old son. The *Hartza'im* skit portrayed Netanyahu trying to demonstrate that Yair's nanny was not a foreign worker by having Yair sing *Adon Olam* - with a thick Dutch accent. The *Cameri Quintet* skit showed Yair trying to persuade his bodyguard to threaten a girl who was calling him names.

The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, responded by shooting off a letter to the heads of the two television authorities charging, "... this is an unprecedented low. It is legitimate to criticize the prime minister and his policies, but attacking a five-year-old child crosses an ethical and human line that must not be crossed." There were signs of second thoughts at Channel 2, which removed the segment portraying Yair Netanyahu when the *Hartza'im* program was replayed a few days later. *Hartza'im* editor Avi Cohen said that, "I think it was a mistake. The minute I saw it on the screen, I said to myself, oops, mistake, sorry. The critics are right. We shouldn't have involved the boy."

The dominant media reaction, however, has been the equivalent of the schoolyard rant, "You started it!" Channel 2 director-general Uzi Peled said, "... I respect [the criticisms], but I am amazed that it was legitimate to use the boy during the election campaign, but it is not right to use the character of the boy in a satirical program, where red lines must be very rare."

It is true that during and since the election, the Netanyahu family has appeared together at public events and on official trips to a degree unprecedented in Israeli politics, in an attempt by the premier, or so it seems, to create Israel's own First Family.

In the US, the tradition that Americans effectively elect a First Family when they elect their president, is a time-honored one. The roots of this tradition probably lie in another uniquely American preoccupation - the character of their elected officials, particularly the president.

American children grow up on stories of George Washington and the cherry tree ("I cannot tell a lie") and "Honest Abe" Lincoln. Over the years, the focus on character became the downfall of certain candidates, such as when Senator Gary Hart was forced out of the Democratic primaries after being caught with a mistress.

In most other countries, the personal life of elected leaders is often a subject of interest or amusement, but not a major factor in determining votes. This may, ironically, be becoming true in the United States, where President Bill Clinton was reelected handily even though his opponent was considered more "rustworthy," according to polls.

Given that even Americans seem to be getting tired of choosing their leaders on the basis of personal behavior, it is odd that Netanyahu would try to introduce the character factor into Israeli politics by projecting a "family man" image. Nor is it clear that Israelis care about the family life of the prime minister when it comes making choices in the voting booth. Indeed, many people believe that there is not much correlation between leadership ability and personal morality. A quick survey of the world's most successful and beloved world leaders would probably confirm this intuition.

What is more, the mixture of personal and political often rebounds to the detriment of those who try it. As President Ezer Weizman has found out, public figures lose the right to express "personal" opinions; anything they say automatically reflects the office they represent, whether they like it or not.

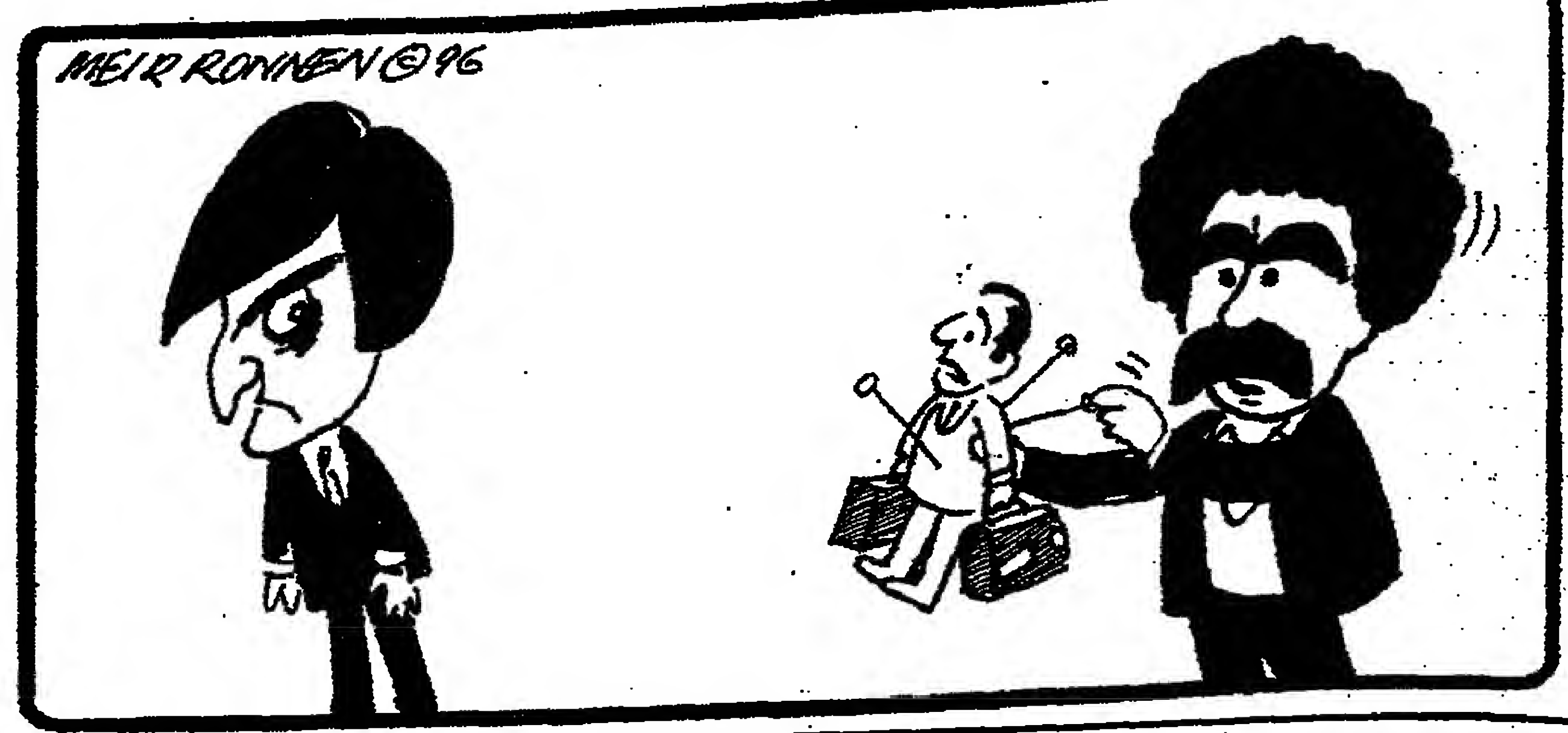
During the Korean War, US President Harry Truman wrote a scathing letter to a *Washington Post* music critic who had panned his daughter Margaret's performance at Constitution Hall. Truman wrote, "Someday I hope to meet you. When that happens you'll need a new nose, a lot of beefsteak for black eyes, and perhaps a supporter below!" The letter leaked to the press, and Truman was pilloried for his uncouth language and for concerning himself with his daughter's music career while Americans were fighting abroad.

Truman explained himself privately by saying that he had the right to be two people, the president and himself. While it may be natural for leaders to feel that way, most people will not grant them that luxury.

At the same time, most people will also agree it is wrong for the media to involve a small child in political satire. Surprisingly, some media figures have argued that this could not be helped because the prime minister had already exposed his children to the press. This logic paints a picture of media culture that these same figures would normally be the first to reject: a picture of a profession with no sense of limits and self-control.

This past week's satirical skits will, unintentionally, have served their purpose if they help induce both sides, the prime minister and the media, to take the family out of politics. This is one American import that Israel could just as well do without.

'Don't you feel something?'



The onion-like Hebron issue

MARK HELLER

SINCE the government's stated rationale for renegotiating the redeployment from Hebron was to correct the alleged defects in the original agreement, the debate over Hebron 2 will logically focus on the question of whether it is really a new and improved version.

To be fair, the details have not yet been revealed, but enough is already known to suggest that government apologists will have a hard time pointing to any substantial changes for the better, either in security or civil matters.

The addition of a small buffer zone between the Israeli and Palestinian-controlled areas of the city may be considered a slight gain, but the major "flaws" that the government demanded to revise have not been fixed.

There is no provision for hot pursuit, apart from a reference to the existing arrangements stipulated in the original interim agreement and already in effect in other areas under Palestinian control, and there are no new limitations on the weapons to be carried by the Palestinian Police.

In fact, if reports that Palestinian Police in the buffer zones will be equipped with Ingram submachine guns are true, this is arguably a setback, since the original agreement only provided for pistols and 100 rifles "for the protection of [police] stations."

On balance, the new agreement is virtually indistinguishable from the old one. Pressed to explain the differences, Dennis Ross suggested that Hebron 2 adds details to the principles and general guidelines of Hebron 1.

Ross is a consummate diplomat who understands that this chapter cannot be brought to a close unless face is saved on both sides, and he provided the only possible formula that could gratify Binyamin Netanyahu without embarrassing Yasser Arafat.

These details will not impress most opponents of the original redeployment agreement, and certainly not the settlers.

What matters is that they were negotiated by a Likud prime minister, and this will enable enough cabinet ministers, coalition Knesset members and Likud voters to convince themselves that what was unacceptable before is acceptable now.

With the support of the opposition, Hebron 2 will therefore go through without much trouble, and the effect in Hebron itself will be more or less the same as that envisaged in the original agreement.

In short, nothing lost and nothing gained, at least at first glance.

BUT FIRST glances are misleading. For the Hebron issue is like an onion, with many layers, and confining the debate to the immediate consequences for Hebron itself ignores the effect on the other layers, which include the broader fabric of Israeli-Palestinian-Israeli-Arab, and Israeli-Arabian relations.

When all these elements are taken into account, the picture is quite different, because the delayed redeployment and protracted negotiations have had an extremely negative effect on Israel's regional and international stature, with all this implying for its bargaining position in the future.

If the result had been a clearly superior arrangement in Hebron itself, the cost in political capital environment, there may be something to commend the decision to reopen the negotiations.

But Netanyahu's determination to continue demanding the unattainable in the face of mounting costs suggests a worrisome inability to assess the overall relations of power, as opposed to those in the narrow Israeli-Palestinian axis, just as it substitutes a narrow focus on tactical military issues for a comprehensive view of national security.

In the after-action analysis that should follow the Hebron redeployment, it will be important to reassess the processes of policy formulation and decision-making that characterized the approach to Hebron since the election.

In particular, it will be vital to abandon ideological blinders and lingering nostalgia for the fairy-land of the election campaign and come to grips with the real focus of the permanent-status negotiations.

As even many of the prime minister's own colleagues and partners now acknowledge, this is no longer the ideological or campaign-slogan question of whether or not there should be a Palestinian state, but rather the realpolitik question of its territorial extent and functional authority.

If the lesson learned from the Hebron negotiations is to take proper account of all layers of the onion, then the experience, however costly, may yet prove useful. If not, then the troubles of the past few months will be a mere prelude to far more serious upheavals down the road.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

If Netanyahu doesn't deal with what lies beneath the top layer, there could be much to cry about later

An Arab valve to ease the pressure

ELIYAHU KANOVSKY

IN response to terror attacks, the government, under both Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, sharply restricted the number of work permits allowing Palestinians to work in Israel. During recent years there have also been periods of complete or almost complete closure of the territories.

The number of Palestinians working in Israel, legally or otherwise, fell from a peak of 180,000 in 1987 to 80,000 in 1996, while the number of non-Palestinian foreigners working here reached 250,000, including illegals.

US Undersecretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstadt, visiting Israel this past August, urged Prime Minister Netanyahu to expel illegal foreign workers and make room for many more Palestinians.

"There's a pressure cooker heating up in the territories," he cautioned. In other words, the deteriorating Palestinian economy spells danger for Israel.

Terje Larsen, who served as UN coordinator for the Palestinian Authority, also stressed the need to "radically increase" the number of Palestinians working in Israel. He too argued that increasing the number of Palestinians working in Israel was compatible with Israel's security.

He estimated that each Palestinian worker supports 10 people (directly and indirectly), and every 10,000 workers employed in Israel provide about \$20m. in annual tax revenues for the PA.

In 1995, he estimated, overall losses to the Palestinians as a result of closures and curtailed work permits were \$600m., or the equivalent of total aid pledged to the PA by the US, Europe, and others.

Implicitly the US and other aid-givers have little hope that "real" jobs will soon be created by the PA, that is, excluding the PA's overblown "civil service" and the multiplicity of security force and various make-work jobs.

Three years ago, with the signing of the Oslo accords, there was optimism that regional economic cooperation buttressed by assistance from the advanced industrialized countries, plus the reallocation of resources from military to civilian pursuits would stimulate a some 600,000 mostly Palestinians with Jordanian passports. In addition, the Arab oil states cut off financial aid to the PLO and Jordan. These measures were in retribution for Yasser Arafat's and King Hussein's siding with Iraq.

Before the 1990-91 war some 300,000 Palestinians-Jordanians worked in the Gulf states, largely in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The Palestinians from the autonomous areas also lost their jobs in the Gulf states.

Following the sharp increase in oil prices in 1973-74, and in 1979-80, the Saudis and other rich Arab Gulf states went on a spending spree. The demand for labor rose exponentially and foreigners from the poor Arab and Asian countries flocked to Saudi Arabia. By the mid-1980s foreign labor numbered 2.7 million, accounting for 60 percent of the total Saudi labor force.

The sharp drop in oil prices in the mid-1980s slowed down the growth of the foreign labor force, but did not curtail its growth completely. In 1992 there were 12.3 million nationals in Saudi Arabia plus 4.6 million foreigners. In 1989 there were about three million foreign workers (aside from accompanying family members) in Saudi Arabia and about the same number in 1995.

In other words Saudi develop-

ment plans since 1980, which call for a steady decline in the number of foreign workers here, in practice, been ignored. The Saudi need for millions of foreign workers is long term.

Following the liberation from Iraq in 1991, the Kuwaiti government ordered the mass expulsion of some 450,000 Palestinians.

They have been replaced largely by Asians. According to the 1995 census there were 656,000 Kuwaitis and 920,000 foreigners in Kuwait. With respect to employment the disproportion was far greater - some 820,000 foreigners as compared with 163,000 Kuwaitis.

Clearly, the continuing long-term discrimination against the employment of Palestinians in the Arab Gulf states is of far greater magnitude than Israel's sporadic closures and curtailment of work permits following terrorist attacks.

The US, in particular, should urge the Saudis and Kuwaitis to let bygones be bygones and allow a far larger number of Palestinians to work in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Within the context of three million foreigners working in Saudi Arabia and 820,000 in Kuwait - plus hundreds of thousands of Asians working in the other Arab Gulf States - there is surely room for 100,000 currently unemployed Palestinian workers.

It is senseless and unjustified to ask Israel to take even greater risks with its security, while richer Arab states favor Asians over Palestinians.

The writer is a member of the department of economics and senior research associate at Bar-Ilan University's BESA Center.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE "NATIONAL GEOGRAPIC"

Sir, - I am writing in reference to the commentary you published on November 29 in your newspaper, titled "National Geographic should stay out of politics," by Andrea Levin.

I categorically reject the notion that *National Geographic* has been "resping anti-Israeli themes" in its coverage of the Middle East.

Our magazine is not anti-Israel. Nor is it "pro-Israel, or anti-Arab, or pro-Arab. We are, however, well aware that the stories we publish will not always be popular, especially on topics as emotionally charged as Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. We receive many letters from readers on every story we publish, including those on the Middle East, and they usually reflect opinion on all sides of a given issue. Clearly, it is impossible to please everyone. But we have noticed over the years that editorial bias is usually made most vehemently by those with a strong bias of their own.

Rather than embracing any political agenda, we will continue to publish articles that are as close to objective, fair and accurate as we can make them.

To my knowledge, no magazine in the world goes to greater lengths than *National Geographic* to establish that what we publish is responsible, correct and free of editorial bias.

Not only do we submit these stories for general review to eminent experts in the subjects at hand, often with opposing points of view; we also double- and triple-check every statement of fact that appears in our stories for accuracy. Those facts are subject to interpretation, of course. That is the nature of the printed word. But the facts themselves, and the context in which they appear, are presented honestly and fairly.

Ms. Levin is entitled to her opinion, of course. But we would expect that most readers in search of the truth, including our 15,181 valued National Geographic Society members in Israel, would prefer to read the stories in question and form their own opinion.

WILLIAM L. ALLEN, Editor
National Geographic Magazine
 Washington, D.C.

CLINTON'S RECORD

with Syria and have consistently refrained from putting meaningful pressure on Syria to stop Hizbullah.

The Clinton administration continues to punish Israel for spending funds in the Old City of Jerusalem, deducting the amount of money that Israel spends there each year from the US loan guarantees that it receives.

When he visited Israel last year, President Clinton refused to allow his official welcome to take place in Jerusalem (prompting President Weizman and Jerusalem Mayor Olmert to boycott the welcome ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport). President Clinton opposed the

Dole-Kyl bill to recognize Jerusalem and establish the US embassy there. (The bill was passed by Congress anyway and it became law without his signature.)

The US has repeatedly refrained from voting anti-Israel resolutions in the UN Security Council.

The Clinton administration condemned Prime Minister Rabin's deportation of Hamas terrorist leaders in 1992 and pressured Rabin to let them return earlier than scheduled.

HERBERT ZWEIBON, Chairman,
 Americans for a Safe Israel
 New York.

THE LETTER

I would like to ask these gentlemen if they have ever heard or read any of Arafat's Arabic speeches since Oslo? They are full of hate and talk of jihad.

Has any of these eight ever asked Arafat why he has never negated his stated promise of advancing slice by slice until Israel is ripe for destruction?

POSTSCRIPTS

WORLD NEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car bomb kills seven in Algiers suburb
PARIS (Reuters) - A car bomb exploded near a paramilitary gendarmes' station in a working-class suburb of Algiers yesterday, killing seven people and wounding scores of others.

Hutu rebels kill four soldiers
BUJUMBURA, Burundi (AP) - Hutu rebels, who declared a unilateral 11-day cease-fire earlier in the week, killed four soldiers and wounded four civilians in a Christmas Eve attack, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Troops move into riot-torn Indonesian town
JAKARTA (Reuters) - Hundreds of Indonesian troops moved into a riot-torn town in western Java late yesterday after a mob set fire to commercial buildings and churches, residents and military officials said.

German police identify church bomber
FRANKFURT (Reuters) - German police said yesterday that a Frankfurt woman who killed herself and two other women in a Christmas Eve church bomb attack had been undergoing psychiatric treatment and was most probably driven by "personal motives."

Major wins 'personality' contest
LONDON (AP) - In a contest clouded by vote-rigging, Prime Minister John Major edged out a brave nursery-school teacher and Burma's pro-democracy leader to be voted BBC radio's personality of the year.

Widow digs up dead husband's skull
CAIRO (Reuters) - Egyptian police arrested a widow who dug up her dead husband's skull because she was lonely and missed his company, the Al-Ahram daily said yesterday.

Guatemalan ambassador released

ED MCCULLOUGH
LIMA, Peru

LEFTIST rebels released Guatemala's ambassador yesterday from the diplomatic compound where 103 other dignitaries remained hostage, though talks between Peru and the guerrillas seemed at a standstill.

Uruguay seemed for seeming to grant concessions to free its ambassador two days ago.
Uruguayan President Julio Sanguinetti denied there was a connection between freeing two Peruvians held for immigration violations and the subsequent release by rebels here of its ambassador Tabare Bocalandro.

its ambassador, Morihisa Aoki.
A possible advance in the stalemate, now in its ninth day, was expected after the Rev. Juan Luis Cipriani spent 7 1/2 hours inside the diplomatic compound Christmas day, and hours inside the diplomatic compound Christmas day, and hours inside the diplomatic compound Christmas day, and hours inside the diplomatic compound Christmas day, and hours inside the diplomatic compound Christmas day.

Defying police ban, thousands demonstrate against Milosevic

DUSAN STOJANOVIC
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia

DEFYING thousands of heavily armed riot police yesterday, tens of thousands of people ignored a ban on rallies to protest against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.
The police were deployed in downtown Belgrade to enforce a newly pronounced ban on the anti-Milosevic rallies that began 37 days ago.



A girl gives flowers to riot policemen yesterday in downtown Belgrade, where thousands of opposition supporters defied a ban on protests against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

There were no major incidents during the rally. But later, police clashed with smaller groups of demonstrators who were passing by their homes. Insults led to violence. Dozens of protesters were clubbed.
At least one protester was seen hit over the head with a baton and taken away by ambulance. A Russian TV cameraman was beaten and his camera smashed.

and ignoring police warnings to disperse.
The students carried long strings of garlic which they said was their defense against "Communist vampires." Balkan superstition has it that garlic wards off evil spirits. Police did not intervene.

Burma bombing toll rises to 5

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - The death toll rose to five yesterday from a bombing at a temple compound visited by senior officials. The military government blamed insurgent groups trying to "destabilize the country."

drawn thousands of pilgrims daily since going on display December 6. Visitors have included the top generals of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council.
Initial reports in government media said four people died and 18 were injured in the second blast. In a subsequent statement sent to the media, the regime announced that a fifth person, a policeman, had died of his injuries.

New ComStock Internet Service
Standard & Poor's ComStock on the Net delivers affordable, high quality, real time data.

US approves standards for next generation of TV

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal regulators yesterday approved digital standards that could deliver movie-quality television to America's living rooms as early as 1998.
TV stations will use the high-tech specifications approved by the Federal Communications Commission to deliver crisp, digital signals. Compact Disc-quality sound and even sharper pictures in a format called high definition.

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With sorrow we announce the passing of
Professor MEIR WALLENSTEIN
The funeral will take place today, Friday, December 27, 1996, at 12:30 p.m. in Holon. The family

With great sorrow and sadness, we announce the death of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother
MAUREEN GALLOON
in Toronto on December 24.
Mourning by: Husband, Sam, Toronto; Daughter and son-in-law, Nikl and Terry Weiss, Kibbutz Shihot; Daughters, Caryl, Toronto; Sarah, England; Granddaughters, Sheera, Eliana, Clara. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The Governor, Management and Staff of the Bank of Israel deeply mourn the death of Professor

NEWS IN FOCUS

Friday, December 27, 1996

Beginning of the end

The Jews of Hebron prepare for the inevitable.
Herb Keinon reports

SETTLEMENT reporters were summoned to the Knesset by Hebron leaders Monday night, soon after news began breaking that the long-delayed Hebron redeployment deal was in the immediate offing. The mood was clandestine, cloak and dagger. "We are planning something," a spokesman said over the phone. "But I cannot talk about it on an open line." (This official has taken for granted for a long time that the phones from his office are bugged.) "Meet at 6 p.m. in the public cafeteria in the Knesset."

On the face of it, the Knesset seemed a rather odd place to give out confidential information about moves the settlement was obviously planning to combat the agreement. But on second thought, the Knesset made good sense: settlement leaders were spending hour upon hour there at the beginning of the week; furiously lobbying MKs and government ministers against the agreement they dub "the abandonment of Hebron."

The settlers' information, as it turned out, was interesting, but not revolutionary. They gave reporters prior notice of their move early Wednesday morning into a few abandoned homes in the casbah. But, the fact that reporters were given prior notice already helped place the incident into perspective: it was a publicity move, and not the first shot in a battle to prevent the withdrawal from Hebron. And indeed, the move into the casbah was designed to attract attention, as settlement spokesman David Wilder said, to three issues: that Jewish property in the casbah will be turned over to the Palestinians, that Palestinians are busily re-occupying properties that literally touch the Avraham Avinu Jewish Compound, and that security is so porous in the city that small groups of people can move from neighborhood to neighborhood without being detected.

"I have never said this before," Noam Armon said in the Knesset cafeteria, speaking in hushed tones and leaning forward toward the reporters. "The practical upshot of the agreement is that it is the first step toward the destruction of the Hebron Jewish community." Then, speaking of the man who only six months ago he was praying would meet Shimon Peres, Armon added, "Netanyahu will go down in history as the prime minister who led to the destruction of the oldest Jewish community in the world."

Hyperbole or prophecy? Isaiah or the ultimate spin-meister? The dark, apocalyptic tones with which the settlement's leadership has been painting the agreement is obviously an attempt to scare the government—and the nation—into changing it. But, as one of the major players in the area admitted off the record, this line could have the unintended effect of scaring the city's 500 Jews as well; scaring them, in fact, to such an extent that some may opt to leave rather than be victims of—as the settlement leaders continuously warn—a 1929-type massacre.

"RIGHT NOW, nobody is planning on leaving," the settlement activist said. "In fact, now people are trying to move in, but there are no vacancies." Yet, he said, in the future people could get so concerned about their safety that they may want to leave.

A second, unintended consequence of this type of warning could be that the government could decide, ironically, to uproot the settlement for the Jews' own good. "I would not be surprised if the government, feeling there was a real security threat, would try to move the community," the activist said. "The Jews of 1929 never planned on leaving, and the survivors of the massacre were forced to leave by the British for their own safety."

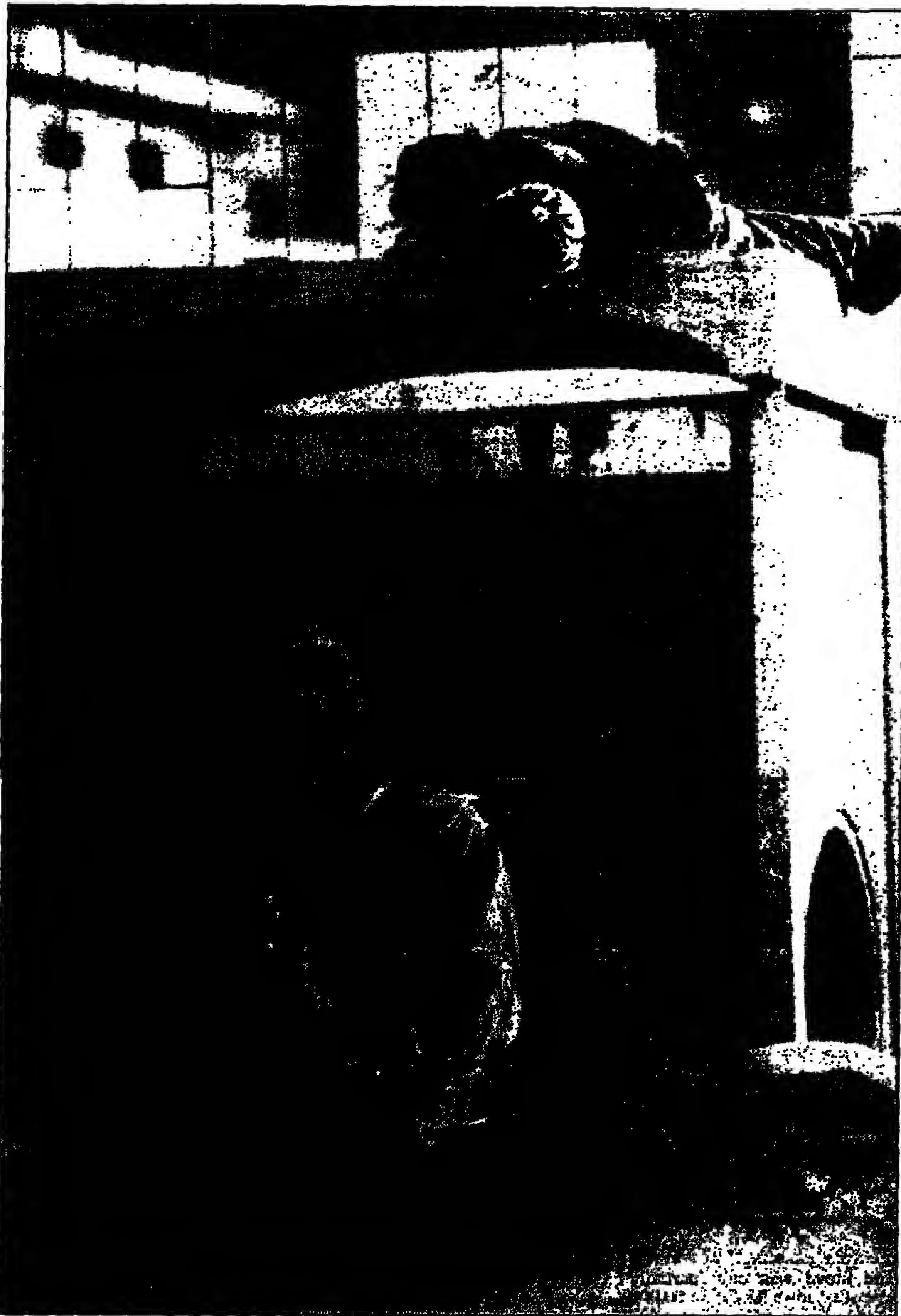
Armon's words about destruction, however, cannot be dismissed as mere paranoia. The city's Jews definitely have some-

thing to fear. And the fear is not merely anchored in what happened to the community in 1929. True, settlement leaders will admit, times have changed. The British are not ruling the land, the IDF will be here. But look what happened at Joseph's Tomb in September; the same could happen here. "If thousands of Arabs storm Avraham Avinu, do you think the soldiers will fire into a mob? They didn't do it at Joseph's Tomb; why do you think they will do it here?" asked Hebron settlement activist Moshe Ben-Zimra.

What emerges from these words is something heard frequently among Hebron's Jews—that they place little faith in the security forces' ability to protect them. This is because of the inferior position they feel the agreement will place the IDF in the city, as well as a deep lack of faith in the average soldier.

Numerous meetings with the IDF's top brass have not put these fears to rest. When OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir met with the settlers recently, he was asked point blank whether he feels the IDF can provide adequate security. "He never said yes," Wilder said. In addition, said Armon, "Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak told me to expect a very difficult period. The IDF is preparing for a war; look at the sandbags here."

At this point, Ben-Zimra said, a conflagration is likely whether the government goes through with the Oslo accords or breaks them. The Hebron settlers are obviously praying there is a breakdown along the way.



A young soldier and even younger settler eye each other in Hebron this week.

"They say Netanyahu and Arafat are ironing out the details," Wilder said between afternoon and evening prayers in the Avraham Avinu synagogue the day the two men were meeting. "Would that the iron would burn the sheet."

THOUGH Hebron's Jews are hoping something emerges to derail the redeployment, Armon said they contrast it to the one reached by

Netanyahu's road to Oslo

Hebron demonstrates that interests rather than ideology prevail in Netanyahu's reluctant acceptance of Oslo, David Makovsky argues

DURING their meeting at the Erez junction this week, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took a leaf out of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's book.

In his meetings with Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, Arafat was fond of talking in detail about the array of opposition forces faced against him at home. During their three-and-a-half-hour meeting this week, which was held either with very few aides or just alone alongside US peace envoy Dennis Ross, Netanyahu candidly spoke about his own problems within his Likud coalition. He even told Arafat about his own brother-in-law, Hagi Ben-Artzi, who moved to Hebron as a sign of protest against the premier's support for the impending Hebron pullback deal.

Confiding in Arafat, and lamenting about his own domestic problems, certainly seems unimaginable for someone who only earlier this year was denouncing Arafat as a "master terrorist," and who pledged never to meet him. Indeed, with the endless Hebron talks now seeming to be on the verge of completion, it now seems evident that Netanyahu has traveled a distance on his own personal journey to Oslo. He is traveling down the unimagined road to Oslo, by way of the casbahs of Hebron, and officials believe he has done so because he realizes that so much is at stake.

Of course, one way to look at the Hebron deal is to compare specific components of this deal and contrast it to the one reached by

the Labor government, while asking the fair question whether the differences are great enough to warrant a loss of a half-year and Israel's standing in the region. Such a comparative debate is legitimate and will be waged, as in the words of a senior Clinton administration official: "Undoubtedly, the longer the delays, the more the costs went up."

However, the significance of a Hebron deal must also be analyzed beyond the contents of the deal itself, namely what it means for Netanyahu and the Likud. Specifically, this deal marks the first deal between sworn enemies, the Likud and the PLO. No less critically, it signifies the Likud's first territorial concession in the West Bank. Moreover, it is occurring in the one city in the West Bank which resonates with biblical meaning. It is also not just any deal, but it marks Netanyahu's affirmation of the entire Oslo framework—the same Oslo which the Likud railed so bitterly against while in opposition.

These factors combined, cabinet confusion about this issue is understandable since the Likud has never sorted out how its old ideas will mesh with the new reality of a post-Oslo world.

Since it is such a departure from the past, one can see that this agreement marks Netanyahu's "on-the-job" training. While one could legitimately ask whether it should occur at the state's expense, the fact is that, as opposed to Uri Savir, Labor's chief negotiator with the

(Continued on Page 14)

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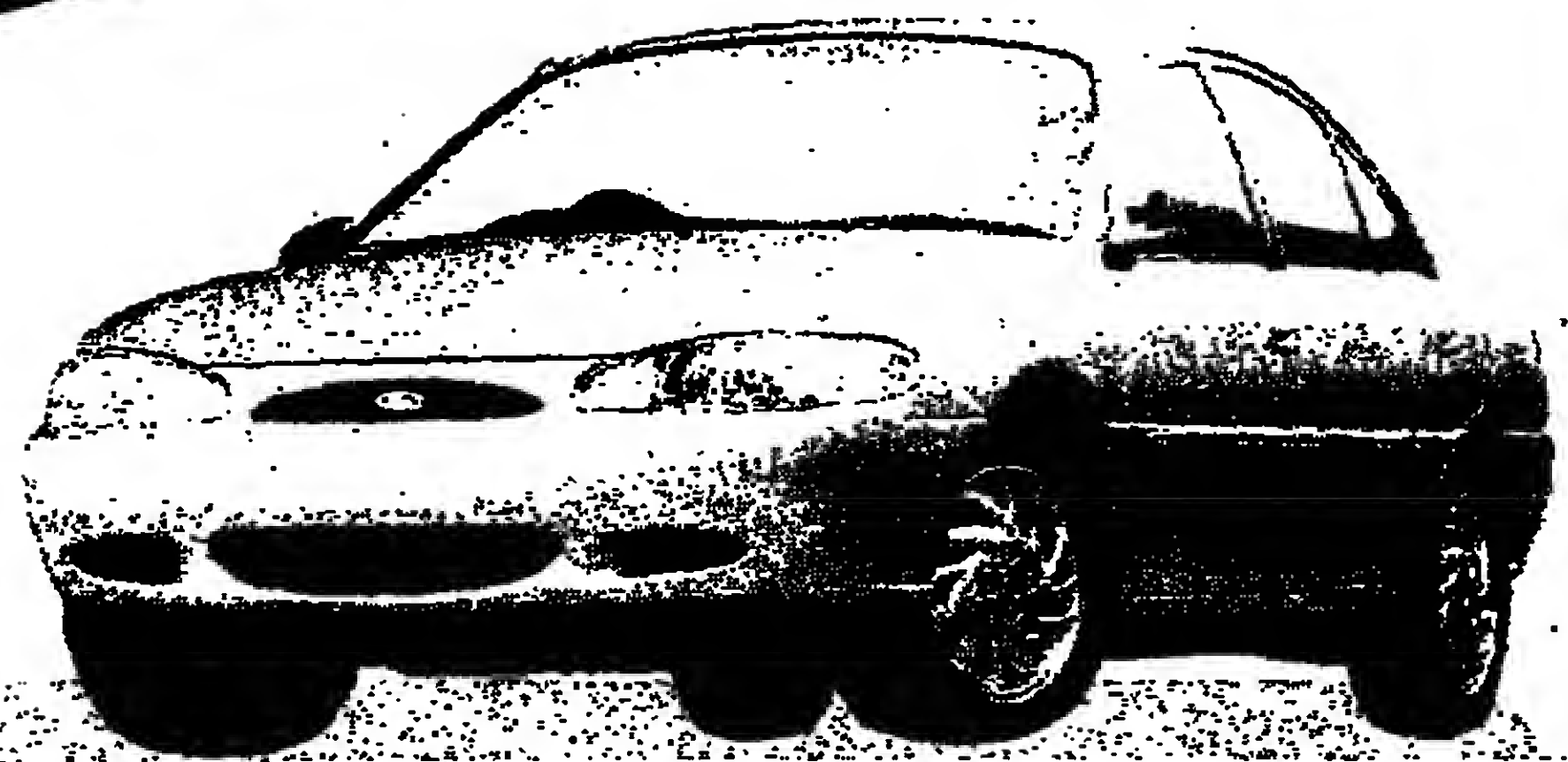


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The boomerang effect of freezing ties

Arab states realize they can't just beat up on Israel if they're to have any leverage in the peace process. They have to be nice — sometimes. Steve Rodan reports

WHEN he was invited to Egypt this week, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai expected to see the usual scowling faces of President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

But on Tuesday, Mordechai got a surprise. He found himself at lunch with his Egyptian counterpart, Hussein Tantawi. The two men reminisced about the 1973 Yom Kippur War and discussed Egyptian-Israeli defense issues, particularly the recent tensions between the two countries.

Later, Mubarak told Mordechai that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would be invited to Cairo as soon as he signs an agreement with the Palestinians.

In Tel Aviv, defense officials were pleased. "We've been trying to deal with Egyptian military leaders for a long time, so for us this was important," a senior official says.

After weeks of the big stick, this was Mubarak's carrot to Israel, in the wake of what both Arabs and Israelis regard as a breakthrough in negotiations to complete the Hebron accord. As head of Egypt's highly secretive military establishment, Tantawi is a shadowy figure and never meets Israelis. But he walked arm-in-arm with Mordechai in a gesture that suggested to the Israelis the potential of cooperation with Egypt.

Israeli officials and pro-government Egyptian analysts welcomed the change of tone by Cairo. The officials said that during the last week of the negotiations Egypt changed its role from spoiler to facilitator, urging Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat to reach an agreement on Hebron and other outstanding issues relating to the interim accord.

Some Egyptian analysts say that tensions with Israel were unusually high over the past few months and welcomed any relaxation. "The heavy brinkmanship to the edge of war is dangerous," says Tahseen Basheer, a former adviser to president Anwar Sadat, who attended a seminar last week at Haifa University. "It carries with it the risk of miscalculation. All humans make miscalculation."

Israeli government analysts say Egypt's about-face is not surprising. They say Cairo wants to lead the Arab world in setting policy toward Israel, whether one of hostility or reconciliation. So far, it has chosen a cautious approach. At the Arab League Foreign

Minister's conference in October, Egypt prevented a Syrian resolution for Arab states to expel Israeli diplomats.

"It didn't serve Egyptian interests," an Israeli official says. "Egypt and most of the Arab states see cutting relations with Israel as counterproductive, especially if they want to maintain warm ties with the US."

Instead, Egypt agreed in October to freeze the normalization of Arab relations with Israel. Nothing agreed upon was abrogated, but negotiations to conclude new projects were placed on hold. The Gulf and North African states that had established ties with Israel over the past two years quickly complied.

The result is that there does not appear to be any plan to raise the low level of diplomatic representation between Israel and the North African and Gulf states. In addition, projects discussed between Israel, Tunisia and Morocco have not been advanced.

Some Egyptians wanted to go further in expressing their displeasure at Israeli policies. At one point earlier this month, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Bassiomy, said Cairo might take a number of steps to protest what he termed the lack of progress in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. One of them, he suggested, might be his recall to Egypt.

"You know where it starts but you don't know where it ends," he said, on December 15.

But the Egyptians quickly backtracked. Diplomatic sources say Egypt learned from the recall of its ambassador in 1982 that such a step means an immediate loss of influence in Israel, as well as being difficult to reverse. Indeed, several days after Bassiomy was quoted as suggesting the possibility, he told the semi-official Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* that his words were taken out of context.

Jordan's relations with Israel have not been affected as drastically as with the other Arab states. On one hand, diplomatic sources say, Jordanian Information Minister Marwan Muasher ended his three-day visit to Israel earlier this month frustrated that his appeal to the Netanyahu government to consider Jordanian interests when dealing with the Palestinians went unheeded.

On the other hand, some Israeli companies continue to register brisk business with their counterparts in the Hashemite kingdom.

This comes even as Israeli executives say they have been put on the defensive by the controversy over Netanyahu's policies.

"Business people find themselves acting as political spokespeople and having to apologize to the world markets for the actions being taken by Israel," Koor Industries chairman Benny Gaon, a confidant of Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, told the Center for Jewish Arab Economic Development.

Still, the freeze in business relations has been felt in potential governmental projects with Jordan. One example is the oft-proposed joint international airport at Akaba. The idea began with the construction of a joint airport located half in Jordan and half in Israel. But the estimated cost of such a facility was at about \$250 million, far more than Jordan could afford. The project was scaled down to

the construction of a runway to Akaba's existing airport. Now, Israeli officials say, Jordan has suggested that Israel use the Akaba airport for international flights. Buses would take passengers straight from the arriving planes to the Israeli border terminal, where the visitors would have their passports stamped. The proposal has been widely criticized, particularly by Eilat officials, who assert that it benefits only Jordan.

"It would be an experiment with one international carrier to see if such a thing could work," says Dov Sharf, director of regional cooperation for the Eilat municipality.

Still, Jordanian officials continue to maintain excellent — albeit low-profile — relations with Israel. Security cooperation remains high and both countries understand that their vital interests depend on maintaining an open line of communications.

As a result, some Jordanian analysts, particularly those close to the royal palace, dismiss the notion that Netanyahu is solely to blame for the worsening relations between Israel and the Arabs.

"I take issue [with the idea] that the Likud rise to power and its policies are the reason for the halt in the peace process," says

Mohammed Mall Alla of the Hashemite Center in Amman. "Shimon Peres refrained from implementing the agreement in Hebron. Legally, he could have done it. But politically, the mandate was given to another prime minister. What Peres did in the last few months as prime minister was killing the peace process."

Few Israeli analysts expect the Arab states to significantly warm their relations with Israel if and when the Hebron agreement is signed. The accord will be immediately followed by Palestinian demands to implement the first of three redeployments in Judea and Samaria. The subsequent negotiations are expected to be tense and accompanied by more Arab threats to reduce ties with Israel.

But some Israeli officials say the Arabs have a weak hand. Despite high expectations by the previous Labor governments, the North African and Gulf countries have kept diplomatic ties to the bare minimum. Simply put, there isn't much the Arabs can reduce without eliminating altogether their formal ties with Israel.

"The Arab decision to go slow with Israel diplomatically has boomeranged," an Israeli official says, "because today the Arabs don't have leverage."



Yitzhak Mordechai got a nice surprise when he visited Egypt. (Israel Sun)

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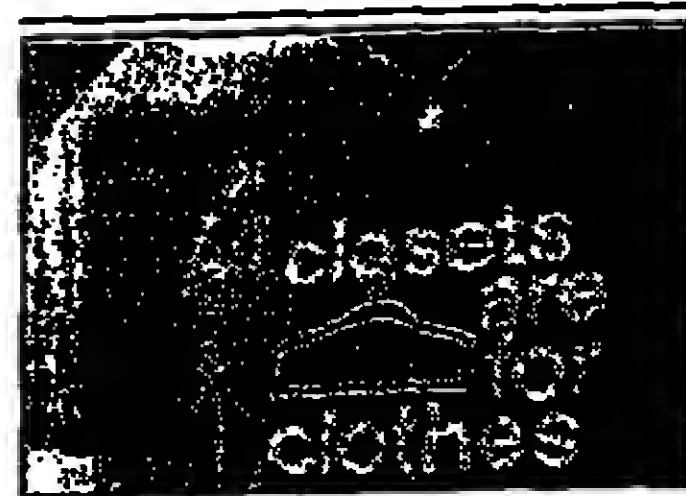
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Nothing 'gay' about it

President Weizman's comments on the gay community may never be forgotten.
Larry Derfner reports



(Lester J. Millman)

MOSHE (not his real name) was watching television with his parents last Friday night when the clip came on of President Weizman insulting homosexuals before an amused, appreciative assembly at Haifa's Reali School. "My father was smiling like he agreed," said Moshe, a 23-year-old student in Jerusalem who hasn't told his parents that he is gay. "I put on a face like it didn't affect me, but inside I was boiling. I felt like I wanted to break the TV set," he said.

Fear of his parents' reaction is one of the main reasons why Moshe still isn't ready to "come out of the closet," he said. Weizman's performance at Reali pushed him towards "coming out." "It made me want to do something, to stand up for myself."

The president had told the assembly that he "despised" homosexuality, considered it "abnormal," claimed he could spot homosexuals from a distance, and even did a limp-wristed imitation of the stereotypical gay man. The students laughed and applauded. But those who were appalled by Weizman's remarks kept silent.

Avi Soffer, head of the Society for the Protection of Individual Rights for Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals in Israel, said that while bigoted Israeli religious and political figures had defamed gays over the years, never had the assault come from such an exalted leader as the president.

Weizman's words had given the highest-level legitimization to homophobia, and carried the potential to encourage violence against gays, said Tal Janus-Hakak of the Community of Feminist Lesbians. "People [intent on physically attacking homosexuals] can justify it by saying, 'Look what the president said,'" she noted.

When Weizman's broadcast first made the news, the gay community was frightened, Soffer said. People calling the society's hot line were asking, "What's going to happen now?" But the jokes, slurs, and applause at Reali School goaded homosexuals into a counterattack

which threw the head of state back onto the defensive. Recent calls to the hot line reflect that the initial fear has changed to indignation and militancy. "Now people are saying, 'Good for you,'" Soffer noted.

Between the angry demonstration outside the President's Residence last Saturday night, the expressions of outrage by Jewish homosexuals around the world, the clear sympathy shown by the Israeli media, and Weizman's own seeming contrition, the gay community, on balance, has emerged strengthened, Soffer maintained.

But not everyone in the community. "Most of the people out of the closet will be more assertive, most of the people in the closet will be more scared," he said.

Soffer and Janus-Hakak said quite a few gays had already "come out" since Weizman's appearance at Reali. They noted that at the protest outside the President's Residence, quite a few of the roughly 300 protesters had never before identified themselves publicly as gay. "Weizman went too far. The anger people felt drove them out into the street," Soffer said.

The immediate emotional reaction from homosexuals was intense. Moshe said that while watching Weizman on television, he "felt like he was humiliating me personally. I felt like crying." A 16-year-old boy told the hot line that he had just about worked up the nerve to "come out" to his parents, when Weizman made his statements. "What am I going to tell my father now, when the president is saying things like this?" Soffer recalled the boy asking.

As for him and his partner, Soffer said, "the moment we heard the news we were devastated. I said, 'It's time to pack our suitcases and leave this country.'"

Ilan Schoenfeld, one of Israel's leading poets and a homosexual, said he, too, had felt the impulse to leave the country, but first he'd wanted to "burn the Israeli flag in front of the President's Residence."

This fury, however, was sublimated into action. Schoenfeld, who in recent years has stayed out of the public arena of gay activism, went to the demonstration and decided to resume work on a book he had shelved on homosexuality and Judaism.

The international gay Jewish network pounced on the issue. Hours after Weizman's remarks made the radio on Friday morning, they were on the Internet website of the



Two homosexuals get together outside a pub. Fear of parental reaction keeps many in the closet. (Debbie Hill)

London-based World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

While Arye Shumer, director-general of the President's Office, announced that Weizman had received thousands of faxes in support of his remarks, Soffer said the office also received thousands of faxes in opposition. (Shumer, however, said the opposition faxes numbered only in the dozens.) The world gay and lesbian congress faxed a letter to Weizman, with copies to many Israeli embassies and Diaspora Jewish newspapers. "Frankly, sir, it is unbecoming of any president of any democratic state to talk of a section of their population in such derogatory terms and in such an abusive manner. Can you imagine what the response would be if another head of state said he 'despised' Jews, choosing to speak in a fake Jewish accent as he paraded his own unvarnished prejudices?" the letter read in part.

Gay activists denounced Weizman on Israeli talk shows; the president's remarks were played over and over; the media treated the matter as a scandal. Weizman refused to apologize, but on Monday he and his wife, Reuma, met with six gay activists, including Soffer and Janus-Hakak, and four MKs—Yael Dayan and Ophir Pines of Labor, and Yossi Sarid and Naomi Chazan of Meretz. "We were welcomed with great respect," Soffer said. Weizman made a "sincere first step" towards repairing relations with the gay community, Janus-Hakak said.

The president's official response after the meeting was a brief, tepid press release in which he opposed

any discriminatory legislation against gays, adding that "any deed or expression in which people are publicly humiliated — or deeds which can be interpreted as such — should be regretted." During the meeting, though, Weizman appeared humbled, and tried to make amends, said Soffer and Janus-Hakak.

The president said sheepishly that he'd "caught hell from Reuma" for his remarks. He explained that he was of a generation that treated homosexuality as a taboo, and that he really didn't know much about gays. "I'm always learning new things," Weizman told the group, adding that he wanted to hold further discussions with homosexuals.

Schoenfeld, who did not attend the meeting, was not impressed. He said the gay community had only been hurt by the affair — bigotry would be strengthened, and the distress that drives some adolescent homosexuals to suicide would be sharpened.

Soffer said that while the controversy's main effect on homosexuals had been a psychological awakening, some concrete steps would also be taken. His organization was now considering filing a Supreme Court appeal against Education Minister Zevulun Hammer's decision to bar a program on homosexuality from a Channel 2 educational series. Janus-Hakak said her organization would try to send lecturers into classrooms to talk about discrimination against homosexuals. She stressed, however, that whatever good came out of the affair, "The president's words can never be erased." Still, it's a safe bet that he will never repeat them, either.

What's in an idea?



(David Rubinger)

Multiculturalism, liberalism, economic prosperity and national unity are forces that may clash.
Yosef Goell writes

LORD DAHRENDORF, Warden of St. Anthony's College Oxford, was the keynote speaker who set the tone for the three-day conference and its consideration of clashing values at the advent of the 21st century. Social democracy has been the hallmark of the outgoing century, just as capitalism and liberalism had been that of the 19th century, he said. The social-democratic century is at an end, however, not because it was wrong, he asserted, but because it was no longer helpful in confronting the new problems of societies in the 21st century.

Societies will be differentiated in the coming century by the manner in which they juggle their approach to three simultaneous problems: first, the ability of their economies to compete and prosper in increasingly international markets; secondly, the need to hold their societies together through social solidarity; and lastly the need to guarantee political and civil liberties.

Many countries have concluded that they can hope, at best, to solve two of the three problems, but not all three. The Anglo-Americans have been emphasizing economic competitiveness and political liberty at the expense of social solidarity; the Continental Europeans have been stressing social solidarity and liberty at the expense of economic competitiveness; while many of the rapidly developing Asian nations have been ready to jettison political and personal liberty in favor of Singapore-style solutions of economic profitability and bureaucratically administered social welfare.

One of the most worrisome trends of the past 15 years, he said, has been the emergence of a new class of super-rich — most dramatically in the US and Britain. The top 10 percent of the population have been moving way ahead of the rest. This trend has given rise to the other extreme to the growth of large excluded strata — national and ethnic minorities and an economic underclass, which are not part of or have opted out of the labor market, the political system, and their civic communities. In some countries, these excluded groups comprise 30 percent or more of the population.

Tolerating such a bifurcated society of super-rich and the excluded will constitute a grave danger to societies which will be beset by daunting "law and order" problems. It will also constitute a profound moral issue because it implies the abandonment of the universality of values for all members of society. Lord Dahrendorf warned that the greatest danger in the decades to come lay in a yearning for an authoritarian leadership as a result of widespread disappointment in the failure of state institutions to provide both political and personal liberty and security, "majority class" over their increasingly precarious positions.

Professor Bhikhu Parekh of Hull University, England, is of Indian origin, and an expert in the fields of multiculturalism and

minority rights. He spoke of the various ways in which societies try to reconcile the need to maintain a sense of unity while recognizing the rights of their minorities. These included models which demanded the assimilation of minorities into the majority culture, plural models in which multiculturalism prevailed in both the public and private realms ("which is the only morally defensible one but which requires extremely mature and self-confident societies"); and the *melting pot* model of autonomous ethnic communities which characterized the old Ottoman Empire — of which some traces remain in Israel.

Parekh told of going by train once from London to Hull with an eight-year-old Pakistani girl sitting next to him and her parents opposite him. The girl had become more and more perturbed at her parents who were talking loudly in Urdu, which Parekh understood. "Just as you don't exhibit your private parts in public," the girl had upbraided her parents, "so you shouldn't use that language in public." Parekh added that when he had related his experience to a Jewish colleague she told him that she had behaved exactly the same way when she was a little girl and her parents insisted on embarrassing her by speaking Yiddish in public.

PROFESSOR RUTH Gabison, who addressed the subject of whether Israel could be both a democratic and a Jewish state, asserted that that was possible only under broad definitions of both Judaism and of democracy. "A theocratic Jewish state cannot be democratic; and an extreme culturally neutral democratic state cannot jibe with a Jewish nation-state. People who claim that Jews are not a people but a religion cannot claim justification for Israel as a Jewish nation-state."

Her sentiment was echoed by Dr. Moshe Halberstam, who asserted that the central unifying aspect of the State of Israel was the Law of Return. But if that law is what legitimizes Israel as the state of the Jews, it cannot be a Jewish state in the sense of one narrow and exclusive concept of what constitutes Jewishness.

Gabison noted that secular Israelis today were much less patient than in the past in regard to making concessions to the religious.

The Orthodox, for their part, who see that the status quo has been eroded against them, are intent on using their enhanced political power to restore that status quo, and to go even further to establish Israel as a religious state. "For the first time, the Orthodox today are openly voicing their challenge to Israeli democracy. This expressed itself last year in the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, and in the current attacks on the institution of the High Court of Justice."

Gabison said that the only hope for a viable Israeli democracy was to reach agreement between the camps for a system of power sharing.

She mused whether the "constitutional moment" needed for such a compromise agreement on coexistence could be realized. In the meantime, abetting the growth of an educational system that actively educated against the state "is just plain crazy."

In a comparative context, Professor Zbigniew Pelczynski, a transplant at Pembroke College, Oxford, noted that the role of the Catholic Church was a red-hot issue in the politics of today's Poland which was involved in writing its new post-Communist democratic constitution.

Surveys have found that 35 percent of the Poles are in favor of declaring unambiguously that Poland is a Catholic state. One of the hotly debated issues is whether God's name should be mentioned in the constitution.

Pelczynski was informed that a similar issue had erupted in Israel during the dramatic days prior to our declaration of independence on May 14, 1948. The issue then, too, was whether to mention the name of God in our Declaration of Independence. The typical compromise that was reached — after days of debate as the country was frantically preparing to meet the invasion of five Arab armies — can be found in the penultimate paragraph of the Declaration which reads, "and with faith in the Rock of Israel." Many of our atheistic founding fathers chose to interpret that phrase geologically, while others were mollified by its theological implication.

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David Brown is a young Jewish man in Britain suffering from leukemia, who is in urgent need of a bone-marrow transplant. If you are between 18 and 50, in good health, and have not been tested before, please come to be tested as a potential donor. Testing will be conducted on Tuesday, December 31, at two different locales: at Magen David Adom in Romatna, Jerusalem (near the Central Bus Station), between 2 and 9 p.m.; and on the Bar-Ilan University campus, at the Livran Auditorium in the Chemistry Building, between 3 and 7 p.m. All that is involved is a simple blood test; the results will be confidential.

The search is being conducted with the help of MDA, Kedma, the Sue Harris Foundation, The Jerusalem Post, and others.

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WHO said Netanyahu isn't doing anything? In the same week as his glib religious supporters got a black eye in Hebron, the prime minister completed a remarkable one-two punch by dealing the bulk of his voters - middle-class urbanites - a blow in their pockets.

Apparently, with an anxious world glued to a terrorist thriller in Peru and a diplomatic melodrama at Erez, Binyamin Netanyahu assumed the budget disgrace he orchestrated this week will have passed unnoticed.

Nothing could be more wrong. Not only did Netanyahu's pompous promises not to raise taxes prove to have been brazen lies, but in fact his budget leaves most Israelis sandwiched between hypocritical plutocrats and ignorant populists.

This unholy coalition of minorities is doing its best to impoverish us thick-skinned, hard-working, wage-earning, leaderless, silent majority. Yet at the end of the day, this week's show of fiscal non-leadership will emerge as an electionally potent experience for taxpayers, and a financial disincentive for investors.

The plutocrats, through the Manufacturers' Association, like to hail free trade and sound economic statism, but in practice, they cannot part with the government's nipple. Otherwise, how does one explain their shrieks in face of a sober plan to reduce their investment-aid grants from 34 to 20 percent of gross investments?

This attitude - which resulted in a restoration of one-fifth of the originally planned cut in their grants - along with the moneyed elite's permanent insistence that the Bank of Israel sharply reduce interest rates and drastically devalue the shekel, is tantamount to a soccer player's complaint that the goalpost was too low. The problem, in other words, is that too many of them are either afraid of, or unable to, compete. A real competitor, faced with tough market realities, does not cry behind his government's apron, but trims costs, rethinks strategy, and then restructures.

Watch your wallet

ON THE AGENDA
AMOTZ ASA-EL

On a recent visit by Minnesota-based industrial giant 3M, I asked its CEO, L.D. DeSimone, whether he knew personally US Federal Reserve Governor Alan Greenspan and Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin. "Yeah," he confirmed modestly. And how often do you meet with them, I went on, bearing in mind our own captains of industry's tendency to endlessly roam Jerusalem's political corridors and tell ministers, legislators, and bureaucrats what to do. "Every now and then," said DeSimone. And - being an exporter whose balance sheets are highly sensitive to an excessively strong dollar's pinch - does he ever tell them what the greenback's interest or exchange rates should be? "Never," came the reply, "it's just none of my business," said DeSimone, who ranks high among Corporate America's most powerful executives.

Israeli executives, nevertheless, know better. They know better than Finance Minister Dan Meridor who is aware that investment aid is additive and degenerating, and - as has been empirically proven by the State Comptroller - usually fails in the long run to generate the jobs, exports and population dispersal for which it was conceived in the first place; they know better than Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel, whose tight monetary policy has effectively blocked inflationary pressures; and they certainly know better than DeSimone, whose firm, with \$14b. in annual sales, has not had one quarterly loss for 90 consecutive years.

And so, we end up with Manufacturers' Association president Dan Propper not only claiming that Frankel's monetary actions are illegal, and urging the Treasury to revert to its rusty tool of administrative devaluation, but ultimately also twisting Meridor's arm so that we - the small-business owners and wage-earning dwellers of apartment buildings - will add from our

limited resources to any capital investor's cash-laden coffers. Funny, but for some reason it never works the other way around; or has anyone here been recently "aided" by, say, Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon, or Motorola Israel's Hagan Achiash, or any other well-tailored and gold-cuffed champion of capital-investment aid, while buying a car, paying a child's tuition, or financing a mortgage?

The saddest thing about our industrialists' insistence on snatching the state is that it puts them in one league with Israel's ultimate beggars, the so-called social lobby. Led by a group of hacks who have spent entire careers in the public sector, this forum thinks state funds are the panacea to practically anything. Consequently, they now will go back to their consensuses and tell them "we saved you from reduced children's allowances, doctor's visit fees and higher medicine prices."

Never mind that the Treasury's original proposal was not supposed to affect families with more than three children. Never mind that the new budget means more expensive cigarettes - a cost which affects the poor more than the affluent - or that newly hiked gasoline taxes increase low-tech operational costs, thus further pressuring the unskilled laborer's employer to lay off workers, or that municipal property taxes have been increased by 16% in order to finance the electoral whims of assorted Volvo-riding Geshet MKs and their groups.

For their part, Netanyahu and Meridor are happy they manage to trim the budget by some NIS 7b., itself an imperative move. After all, the budget deficit this year is expected to total an astronomical NIS 13.5b., which in terms of its

share in gross domestic product is some 50% higher than originally planned; the trade deficit balloons every month by an average \$1b.; and the annual current-account deficit - namely the overall gap between imports and exports of goods, services, and unilaterally transferred funds, which in our case is a euphemism for Uncle Sam's presents - is expected to hit a record \$3.4b. this year.

The only problem is that in attempting to re-balance the budget, Meridor and Netanyahu are treating the symptoms rather than the causes of our chronic fiscal disease. The causes, to be sure, are excessive government activity and over-taxation.

This year's yawning budget deficit stemmed from the Treasury's failure to adequately forecast internal revenues. Still unperturbed, the government now deludes itself that even heavier taxation will restore whatever income it failed to milk from us until now. In reality, with a budget equal to half the national product - as opposed to some 35% in West Europe and 15% in the US - and with the developed world's highest indirect taxes, Meridor is bound to learn next year that he has merely aggravated this country's tax evasion problem, and that the sages knew what they were talking about when they said that a decree which the public cannot meet had better not be decreed.

And when our alarming deficits stubbornly reappear next year, foreign investors - who this year lent us generously in US and European bonds market - are likely to ask themselves whether they should respect a government that does not respect its taxpayers.

The way people manage their finances - let alone other people's money - says a lot, often everything, about them. Sadly, this week's budget proves that other than bennich his predecessors, this government has no clear economic direction.

This government, other than its leader's frequent Milton Friedmanite sermons - which, by the way, to the less cosmopolitan among his cabinet colleagues make him sound like a Martian - has produced a budget devoid of novelty, resolve or vision.

Had they actually studied in-depth this country's problems while in opposition, or at least during their six months in power, the Likud and its partners would have included in this budget some plans for structural change.

For Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, for instance, it went without saying that he should cry wolf in face of the cuts in "his" budget, which of course he largely managed to preserve. Heretical thoughts about the anomalous situation whereby he presides over a higher-education system which is tax-financed by an annual \$1b. - let alone proposing its gradual, or at least partial, privatization - apparently did not even occur to him, since he wasn't seriously prodded into thinking that way by either Meridor or Netanyahu.

Similarly, Communications Minister Limor Livnat could have presented a schedule for the dismantlement of her ministry, which she herself admits should "ultimately" cease to exist. Also, Interior Minister Eli Suissa could have presented a cost-cutting plan for spinning off assorted local-government services to the private sector and curbing the perks currently enjoyed by hordes of municipally employed party hacks.

Indeed, Netanyahu's much-heralded, "comprehensive" privatization plan, which he had promised to deliver "shortly" after his assumption of power, has yet to be unveiled.

Understandably, he has had little time for that recently, since he was busy seeking funds with which to please Dan Propper and David Levy who, to be sure, are more important than his Middle Israelis. Apparently, the most effective way to achieve that, is by screwing us, through increased taxes for anyone who drives a car, smokes tobacco, happens to be a woman, or has a wife.

Dry Bones



Leadership material

SHABBAT SHALOM
SHLOMO RISKIN

The staff shall not depart from Judah, nor the scepter from between his feet, until Shiloh come, and unto him shall there be a gathering of nations. (Gen. 49:10)

THE Book of Genesis ends with the death of Jacob, but before he dies, he makes quite possibly the most important decision of his life. Vayehi, this week's portion, is devoted to the blessings given to the 12 tribes; the smoothness of the text belying that behind the words there was a real struggle regarding who would carry the mantle.

Clearly, the leading candidate should be Joseph. Having risen from slave to second-in-command of the world's most powerful nation, no one could deny that he exhibited qualities of leadership second to none. Nevertheless, Jacob declares that the scepter shall not depart from Judah. Why Judah?

Jacob's choice is based on several elements. First of all, Judah possesses moral integrity. We see this in his public stance concerning his about-to-be executed daughter-in-law Tamar, who was found to be pregnant after she had been widowed for more than nine months.

The irony is that Judah himself is the father. The moment of truth comes when, as she is being taken out to be killed, Tamar has certain personal items delivered to Judah, with the message that they belong to the father of the child. Recognizing them as his own, Judah realizes that the woman with whom he had had relations - thinking her to be a prostitute - had in reality been Tamar, claiming her right to bear a child from the seed of Jacob. Judah could have remained silent, sparing himself the agony of public embarrassment. But in that case Tamar would have been executed. Judah admits his role in the act, exclaiming: "She is more righteous than I..." (Gen. 38:26). Such integrity is the stuff that true leaders are made of.

Second, a leader has to be a master politician, in the sense that politics is the art of the possible. If we contrast the reactions of Judah and Reuben to the near-murder of Joseph, we can distinguish a leader "who would rather be effective than right." Both brothers wished to save Joseph's life, but Reuben says this outright - and his angry and wild brothers shout him down. He has no recourse but to cast the hapless son of Rachel into a pit of snakes and scorpions, hoping to rescue him later that night.

Judah's approach is different. He masks his revulsion at the contemplated murder by presenting a financially beneficial alternative which will at the same time remove Joseph from his family dynamic. Seeing a caravan; he understands how best to save Joseph's life. "What profit do we make if we slay him?" he argues. "Let us rather sell him to these traders."

The third characteristic of Judah is his willingness to take responsibility, a trait critical to leadership. When famine forces the brothers to go to Egypt for food, the prob-

lem of Benjamin joining them surfaces. Simeon has been sitting in prison as a hostage. According to the demands of the grand vizier, the only way the brothers can have Simeon released is to return with their youngest brother. Jacob is devastated; he cannot bear the thought of losing Rachel's only remaining child. Once again, Reuben means well, but fails in the implementation. His suggestion to his father that "You may slay my two sons if I fail to return [Benjamin] to you..." (Gen. 42:37) cannot be taken seriously. Obviously it's obscene to think that Jacob would do away with his own grandchildren!

Judah once again knows exactly what to say to allay his father's fears: "I shall be the surety for him; from my hand you may demand [Benjamin]" (Gen. 43:9).

All these positive qualities, important as they are, pale next to the fervent speech Judah makes to convince the grand vizier to free Benjamin (in whose knapsack the vizier's "stolen" silver goblet has been discovered) and accept him - Judah - as a slave in Benjamin's stead. The true leader must know everything there is to know about his adversary and keep his information to himself; he must then couch his argument in such a way that he must emerge victorious.

I suggest that Judah intimated that the grand vizier was indeed Joseph. Why else would he single out Benjamin as representatives from Canaan? How would an Egyptian grand vizier know how to seat them in proper order of their ages (Gen. 43:33)? And when the grand vizier specifically chooses Simeon to remain in prison, Simeon who was the ringleader in Joseph's "fraternal" lynch, a good case develops in the mind of Judah that this Egyptian ruler is indeed their long-lost brother.

Based on his suspicions, he pins his entire speech, 17 verses long, on the theme of their aged father and his profound relationship to the brother "who is not."

Conventional wisdom would suggest that if Judah has a last chance at arguing the defense, he might attempt to prove Benjamin's innocence; after all, the evidence is entirely circumstantial. But he doesn't deal with the "crime" at all. Instead he speaks only of the unique relationship between the old father Jacob and son Benjamin, substitute for the beloved Joseph.

In the one passage, there are more than 20 references to Jacob and Benjamin. Under ordinary conditions, no judge would grant clemency to a criminal because of an old father in the background. But, if that judge were Joseph, Judah's tactics would be brilliant. So unerring is Judah's intuition that he is not only free Benjamin, but inspires the grand vizier to reveal himself as Joseph and re-enter the family of Israel.

Indeed, Judah - due to his integrity, political acumen, willingness to take responsibility, and ability to understand his opponent - emerges as the most worthy leader of the seed of Jacob.

Shabbat Shalom

What's an abomination?

A doctor in Gohast, Assam state, India, has implanted a pig's heart in a woman born with a hole in one of her cardiac valves.

Yediot Aharanot, December 19

THERE IS no scientific or pragmatic explanation for the kashrut laws: for why the Torah forbids the eating of certain creatures, the eating of the meat of even kosher creatures that have not been ritually slaughtered, cooking a young goat in its mother's milk; why it does not require the ritual slaughter of fish.

The only reason the Torah gives, when it does give one, is an "irrational" reason, one that has nothing to do with chemistry, health, or hygiene, or even aesthetics. The allegedly inherently filthy and forbidden pig is no filthier or more piggy than the chicken, and it certainly doesn't befoul our daily environment more than the pigeons and other birds that make their homes amid our trees and on our window sills.

The Torah here speaks only of holiness. We are to observe these laws "because I am God, your god, and you shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, because I am holy... For I am God Who took you up out of Egypt to be your god; so be holy, for I am holy" (Leviticus 11:44-45). And "...because you are the children of God your god [and] a people holy to God your god... [Therefore] you shall not eat any abominable thing..." (Deuteronomy 14:3-21).

Indeed, the permitted and forbidden animals are repeatedly characterized by terms meaning, respectively, "ritually/spiritually pure/holy" and "impure/tamam" or "abomination/to'eva." Not a word about unhealthful or unpretry.

Later, the talmudic Sages tell us several times that God couldn't care less what we eat or how we prepare our food and doesn't need any of the offerings the Torah commands us; the aim of the Torah's precepts is to elevate, refine, civilize us (Bereshit Rabba 44:1, Vayikra Rabba 13:3, Bemidbar Rabba 21:16).

So "holiness laws" would be a more appropriate designation for what are commonly called "dietary laws" in the later sense of laws pertaining to feeding and eating. In its original and primary sense, the word "dier" was close to the spirit of the Torah's kashrut laws. That sense was "way of living or thinking" (The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary), stemming from the Latin and Greek *diana*, meaning "course of life."

A VIEW FROM NOV
MOSHE KOHN

THE TERM *to'eva* appears 139 times in the Tanach in various forms, mainly in reference to violations of what the Torah ordains as norms of Jewish behavior in the different areas of life. It is used in the senses of abomination, loathe, despise, disgust in their various forms.

It first appears in connection with certain practices the ancient Egyptians found abominable: eating with Jews (Genesis 43:32), sheep herding (Genesis 46:34); the Jews' practice of sacrificing sheep or oxen (Exodus 8:22). Then it brands the forbidden foods (Leviticus 11:1-47, repeated in Deuteronomy 14:3-21) and a list of "abominations" including sodomy, copulation with beasts and other sexual "perversions/tevel" (Leviticus 18: 26-30 and 20:13).

It also brands as *to'eva* various aspects of idolatry, offering a blemished ox or sheep as a sacrifice; magic; transgression; divorcing one's wife and reuniting her after she married and was divorced by another man; and cheating in weights and measures (Deuteronomy 25:26; 25:13; 17:1, 4, 18:9-12; 22:5; 23:19; 24:4, 25:16; 27:15).

In the verb form of *to'eva*, the Torah also tells not to abhor Edomites, "for he is your brother" [descended from Jacob's brother, Esau] and Egyptians, "for you were a sojourning stranger in his land" (Deuteronomy 23:8).

The Prophets brand as *to'eva* not only idolatry, but also such phenomena as the offerings in the Temple of people who are ethically and morally wicked (Isaiah 1:13); the deceitfulness and greed of false prophets and corrupt priests (Jeremiah 6:15 and 8:12); usury, graft, adultery, incest, mistreating strangers, orphans, widows, the poor and the needy (Ezekiel 16:50, 18:12-13; 22:12).

The author of the book of Proverbs labels as *to'eva* "lying lips," "evil scheming," "sowing discord among brethren," and the prying of those who refuse to learn Torah, and repeats the "disgust" at cheating in weights and measures (6:16-19, 11:1, 22:22, 20:23, 28:9).

The Sages brand as *to'eva* saying one's prayers with full bowels or a full bladder (Berachot 23a).

AMONG THE Torah's "impure" animals is the pig, the only animal mentioned as having cloven hooves, one of the char-

acteristics of "purity," but disqualified because it does not ruminate (Leviticus 11:7, Deuteronomy 14:8). The camel, the hare and the rock badger are specified as ruminants that are "impure" because their hooves aren't cloven.

The disgust with which even many non-observant Jews traditionally regard the pig and its byproducts has a rational basis, which, however, has nothing to do with the animal's real or imagined hygienic or aesthetic defects.

The basis of this disgust was probably best expressed by Berl Katznelson, the Second Aliya nestor of the Labor Zionist movement. During Hanukka 1943, the chief rabbi issued a proclamation against Jewish pig breeders, setting off an uproar in the secular press. Katznelson, editor of the labor-union daily *Davar*, treated both the contents and the tone of this criticism in an article dated January 7, 1944.

He wrote *inter alia*: "...I confess: I hate pigs, and more than I hate pigs I hate pig breeders... I have no doubt that there is no swiftness in the world that they are not ready and able to breed in our midst for the sake of that same holy cause for which they breed the swine themselves..." (Kesavim XII, pp. 55-58).

Prof. Anita Shapiro, in her biography, *Berl*, writes that Katznelson did not observe the kashrut laws and did not go to synagogue even on the High Holy Days. But he "strictly observed the *Tsiba* Be'av mourning practices - for national reasons - [and] scrupulously avoided eating pork, because Jews had let themselves be slain rather than eat it..."

The cause of the Jews' traditional revulsion against the pig and its byproducts is expressed in the story of the seven boys who let themselves be killed rather than even pretend to eat pork (*I Maccabees* 1:47; *II Maccabees* 6:18-7:42). So powerful was this revulsion that the Sages cursed pig breeders (*Sota* 49b; *Menachot* 64b; *Yerushalmi Berachot* 4:1 and *T'sanit* 4:5). Yet one view has it that in the Messianic Era the pig will be kosher (Bechorot 24a).

And the Sages also knew that certain porcine organs were like those of humans (*T'sanit* 21b).

AS FOR that heart transplant in India: it remains to be seen whether it will take, and how it will affect the patient.

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FEATURES

If he had a hammer...

GRAPEVINE
GREER FAY CASHMAN

ABATON is his usual tool of trade, but Maestro Zubin Mehta this week took up a hammer to remove the sign bearing his name from alongside the door to his suite at the Tel Aviv Hilton. No, he was not having an artist's fit of pique. The hotel is building a new suite for him and Mehta, who has been staying at the Hilton since it first opened, will move into temporary quarters in the interim.

FELLOW CONDUCTOR and internationally acclaimed pianist Daniel Barenboim who, like Mehta, is currently here for the 60th birthday celebrations of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, had an additional reason to celebrate at Wednesday night's concert at the Mann Auditorium, when he was presented with an honorary doctorate in philosophy by Hebrew University President Hannah Gutfreund. Barenboim was to have received the degree at the Hebrew University's annual convocation last June, but was unable to attend at that time.

YOU DON'T have to be a Michael Jackson or a Madonna to attract a crowd of thousands. Rabbinit Leah Kook of Tiberias, who is wooing female sinners back to religion, is the new star in the local firmament. The 38-year-old wife of Rabbi David Kook, who has a large following of his own, is regarded by some to be not just Kook but cuckoo. Nonetheless her fervent prayers and her passionate embraces seem to have growing appeal. The

mother of 11 children, she lets the oldest members of her brood take care of the others, while she roams the country doing the work of the Lord. Employing a style similar to that of Baptist Bible Belt preachers, Kook denies that she's a missionary, explaining that she's not courting non-Jews.

THE KINDERGARTEN teacher of Yair Netanyahu, the most publicized child in the country, has asked the media and satirists to keep their distance and not to deprive Yair of his childhood. It's unfair to use Yair as the tool with which to attack his parents, she says.

LABOR AND Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai does not shake hands with women, but he was in somewhat of a halachic bind this week when attending the opening, in Jerusalem, of the WIZO shelter for battered women. Although there were two other men on the dais, Yishai was not placed next to either. Instead, he was sandwiched between World WIZO honorary president Raya Jaglom and Sima Goren, WIZO Israel's chairwoman on the status of women.

Helena Glaser, chairperson of the World WIZO executive, while taking Yishai on a tour of the premises, had to keep reminding herself that she must not make any physical contact with him. Each time she wanted to usher him forward, her hand remained frozen in mid-air.

ISRAEL RADIO talk show hostess Shelly Yachimovitch is usual-



Conductor Zubin Mehta wields a hammer instead of a baton.

ly an *faux* with her subject, but she displayed an amazing ignorance on the Broadcasting Authority law when chatting to IBA plenum members Gabi Butbul and Adi Adar, about whether or not the satirical Cameri Quintet had exceeded the limit in its Sunday night comeback on Channel 1. When an indignant Butbul threatened to have IBA director-general Motti Kirschbaum removed unless he himself removed the Cameri Quintet, an incredulous Yachimovitch asked: "What, someone's going to determine what language is suitable for the IBA?" And to prove the point, Yachimovitch, ignoring Butbul's request to desist, played some of the skits in which the irreverent Quintet rode roughshod over religious and political sensitivities.

TEL AVIV lawyer Gil Makov has been busier than usual, ever since word got out that the Fashion Cafe

chain has asked him to explore the possibility of setting up a branch in Israel. The phone has been ringing a lot, acknowledged Makov, "but there's nothing concrete. The chain is expanding worldwide and Israel is one of the countries in which it has expressed interest." It just so happens that the chain is jointly owned by super models Elle MacPherson, Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell, and Christy Turlington, who, if the deal goes through, may come to Israel for the grand opening.

THE GAY community may have been appeased by the apology of President Ezer Weizman, who might not have delivered it as quickly without the intervention of his niece, Labor MK and gay-rights defender Yael Dayan. But, the question remains as to whether the president can now live down his new nickname. Legal affairs commentator Moshe Negbi has

dubbed him "Archie Bunker."

COINCIDENTAL THOUGH it may have been, it was nonetheless another slap in the face of the peace process, that on the day after the meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and a host of government ministers set the ball rolling for the 30th anniversary celebrations of settlement in the Golan Heights.

IT'S NO secret that Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, and Likud MK Raby Rivlin are all Betar Jerusalem enthusiasts, but now a new Betar fan may join them when they cheer on the team.

Reuma Weizman caught the bug from her eight-year-old grandson, Avner, whose slightly delayed birthday present was to watch Betar Jerusalem in a practice session. Sometimes it's worth having grandparents with *protektzia*.

FOLLOWING THEIR upcoming state visit to India, the Weizmans will be going to England in February and, inter alia, will be the guests of Queen Elizabeth before she moves out of run-down Buckingham Palace. Celebrity watchers will no doubt pay close attention to the meeting between Ezer Weizman and Prince Philip, and perhaps place bets on which of the two, who are notorious for foot-in-mouth disease, will be the first to say something which is not politically correct.

LEGENDARY IMAGE-builder and political-campaign strategist Arthur Finkelstein was in Israel last week and met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, whom he helped to put into office. Finkelstein was traveling incognito and was registered at the capital's King David Hotel under the name of Arthur Steven.

IN VENICE for the European premiere of his first musical, *Everyone Says I Love You*, Woody Allen, at a benefit screening to raise funds for the Venice Opera House destroyed by fire a year ago, told the audience that he wasn't staying because he never watches his own movies.

CAN YOU imagine John Travolta playing the archangel Michael? Novelist and screenwriter Nora Ephron can and did, and gave him the title role in her new movie which co-stars William Hurt.

How did you get to where you are?

WENDY ELLIMAN

YITZHAK Shafir, famously monosyllabic, spoke eagerly for over an hour. Teddy Kollek, usually a close second to Shafir in his economy with words, was equally expansive. Shimon Peres and David Bar-Ilan gave "wonderful accounts." Former Chief Justice Haim Cohen told "an incredible story."

"I was asking them about how they first arrived in Israel," says Canadian journalist and broadcaster Ben Wicks. "I wanted to know about what they left, how they came, who came with them, what Israel was like at the time, and how they got on their feet. It wasn't a hardhitting political interview, just an opportunity to tell their story to someone who's really interested in it."

These interviews, conducted in Israel last week, are the first of several hundred that together will become a book that celebrates Israel's 50th anniversary.

"I know that Israel's story has been written many times," says Wicks, "but I don't think it's ever been done quite like this."

"My kind of book is oral history. Hearing the story through the voices of people who lived through those times, gaining some insight into what it was like for them. We know, for example, there were militant organizations fighting for a State, but what did it feel like to be one of those fighters?"

While the interviews done during his preliminary visit to Israel were largely of known names, Wicks's main interest is in hearing from those he calls the UIP's — or the Unimportant People. "They, after all, are the backbone of this amazing country," he says. "Too often, the generations who played such an important part in a nation's past are ignored as they get older. I think that's wrong. It's very important to understand what they've contributed, because it's these people who've worked to make a country grow, who give it its sense of national pride."

Wicks is author of 17 earlier books, among them a best-selling account of the evacuation of 3,500,000 British children to the countryside in 1939, out of reach of Nazi bombing. "That subject was particularly close to me because I was one of those children," he says. "I began the book by putting an ad in the British, Canadian, and Australian press, asking former evacuees to write to me about their experiences. Within three weeks, I'd received over 7,000 letters, and the book, *No Time To Wave Goodbye*, is written largely from those letters. "I'm hoping that Israelis will do the same with the current book — send me written, audiotaped, or even videotaped accounts of how they came to Israel, any time from the early 1930s to the early 1990s."

Wicks comes fresh to his subject. Until now, his Israeli/Jewish connections have been limited to a Jewish great-great-grandfather,

and a 1970s visit to Israel with five other North American journalists, all of them Pulitzer Prize winners. "Everyone was most impressed, and I basked in the reflected glory!" he says.

WICKS was honored with Canada's highest civilian award, the Order of Canada, 10 years ago (as was his wife Doreen, then years later, for her work with Third World children).

His media credentials are impressive: As a syndicated journalist, he has written on Haiti and Biafra, and lived with the rebels of Northern Ethiopia, covering Africa's longest war. In 1986, he visited the Sudan to write on the refugee situation, and later covered the coup in Uganda. The Canadian TV network show he hosted, *The World Of Wicks*, ran for six years, and he has traveled the world, interviewing some of the leading figures of our time. As a cartoonist, Wicks has drawn for the *Sunday Times*, the *Saturday Evening Post*, the *Los Angeles Times* syndicate, the *New York Daily News* and the *Chicago Tribune*, as well as illustrated six children's books.

Time magazine has devoted a full page to Wicks and his communications skills.

Ben Wicks approaches his current project — the book on Israel — with great enthusiasm. "I never cease to be amazed at the different cultures and people who are in Israel, and are in some way linked," he says. "Each brings with them something of where they came from, and it seems to be that this is what gives Israel its great strength. It's as if some amazing chef has looked at this mixture of peoples and said: 'I've got all the ingredients, and now I'm going to make the best of cakes, and that cake is so supremely good that everyone wants a piece of it.'"

"My aim is to give those who read this book some idea of the kind of people who've come to Israel, how they got there and what they've contributed to this remarkable nation."

Ben Wicks's book is to be published worldwide by Bloomsbury Publishers (Britain) and released in the US by Hyperion Publishers (Disney) in the fall of 1997.

If you want to tell Ben Wicks your story, write to Memories, 15 Ya'ari Street, Jerusalem 93843.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Conflict not over in town (10)
- Cut a number—impertinence, that (4)
- To use a blade is criminal (5)
- He'd tell stories of artillery counter-blast (9)
- A cart possibly about to frame plans (8)
- In no uncertainty over weight! (5)
- A plant in the main (7)
- Save from taking dope—it's bad (7)
- Falling back, military men discuss terms (7)
- Smoking increasing again? (7)
- Dark near-casual shirt (5)
- Factory people currently employed (8)
- This will give one time to play (8)
- The appearance of sound men (5)
- The right to call it quits—to separate (4)
- Proof one can get drunk on non-alcoholic liquid (10)

DOWN

- Carry a quarter back (4)
- Phone about a floater, showing a fighter's expertise (4-5)
- A woman in chic attire never looks wrong (5)
- Fish left with encircling flowers (7)
- The place of fruit or vegetable production (7)
- Don't rise early—about one should be right (3,2)
- Part of centre-page spread (10)
- A French pair set free (8)
- "An undevout— is mad", as a poet wrote (10)
- Point to nicer new structure (8)
- Making a changeover striking (9)
- To munny a toss-up. Take a chance on it (7)
- Help for the old built—about £1 (7)
- Agree to advance (3,2)
- Fitting, that is adjusting girth (5)
- Others break (4)

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Sail (6)
- Assistant (5)
- Break (5)
- Stress (7)
- Fashionable (7)
- Release (4)
- Read (3)

DOWN

- Informal (6)
- Ignorant (7)
- Educated (8)
- Female relative (4)
- Condescend (6)

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- 10th Feb 1997 The Positive Aspects of Remembering *Dr. Michray, Dan-Dan, Bruch*
- 24th Feb 1997 Coping with the Loss of a Spouse *Dr. Sol Gordon, Psychologist*
- 10th Mar 1997 Alitya - a New and Different Chapter *Daryl Levinbach, Beverly Family Institute*

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Friday, December 27, 1996

Former Bank of Israel governor, Michael Bruno, dies at 64

Jerusalem Post Staff

FORMER Bank of Israel Governor Michael Bruno died yesterday in Jerusalem, following a long illness. He was 64.

One of Israel's best-known economists and widely accepted as the leading planner behind Israel's pivotal 1985 economic stabilization plan, Bruno was until recently the vice president and chief economist of the World Bank. He served as Carl Melchior Professor of International Economics at the Hebrew University and was a winner of the Israel Prize.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor yesterday described Bruno as a "lighthouse of economic truth."

"From the professional point of view and from the cultural point of view, we are poorer today," said Meridor, who as justice minister in the late 1980s worked closely with Bruno.

Meridor said he urged Bruno to stay on as governor for another term, but failed to convince him.

Born in Hamburg in 1932, Bruno's family came to Israel a year later. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics and economics from Cambridge University and his doctorate from Stanford University.



Michael Bruno (Media Images)

He chaired the economics department of Hebrew University before going to work for the Bank of Israel. There he served as director of the research department, and was advisor to the finance minister and a member of the group that formulated the government's economic stabilization policy in 1985.

By 1986, inflation dropped and Bruno was chosen to be governor of the Bank of Israel. He declined a second term, opting to join the World Bank, where he worked until shortly before his death.

The funeral will take place today at 11 a.m. at the Har Hamezuzot Cemetery, Jerusalem.

Analysts: Wall St. more skeptical of Israeli IPO's

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CAPITAL-MARKET analysts in Tel Aviv say Wall Street will adopt a more "selective" attitude toward Israeli high-tech share offerings in 1997.

Roughly half of the Israeli shares currently traded on American markets will end 1996 below their initial issue price, while the remainder are expected to complete the year slightly higher. The *New York Times* ranked the Israeli-based Vocaltec and Legal Educational Software Systems among the 10 worst issues in the US, based on the stocks returns for December 17, 1996.

Analysts forecast the American market will remain receptive to Israeli companies next year but will focus on mature technology companies. Over the past two

years most Israeli IPO's were issued by high-tech start-ups.

American investors still value Israeli high-tech companies but realize they lack management and marketing abilities, says Tami Gottlieb, general manager of the Israeli branch of the Oscar Gross investment house. American investors, she said, will focus on Israeli companies with a track record of two or three years which have completed at least two rounds of private financing before going public.

According to Michael Eisenberg, vice president of investment banking at Jerusalem Global, an investment bank and consulting firm for high-tech start-ups, the majority of

Israeli companies that raised more than \$30m. in 1996 have performed "quite well."

"I hope, that despite frenzied competition among local investment banks, we will keep our hats on and use more mature companies. We can anticipate tens of offerings next year," he said.

But not everyone is as optimistic. Ze'ev Holtzman, general manager of the Giza Group which represents US investment banking firm Alex. Brown, expects fewer overseas offerings of Israeli companies next year.

"Overseas investors have become more realistic with regards to valuations of Israeli companies. But still, we will see some non-technology companies coming to the market," he said.

FUNDS

(Continued from Page 11)

\$54 The children of Beth David Synagogue Hebrew School, W. Hartford, CT.
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 \$21 From the allowances of four little girls: Abigail Eiman, Bopit Bina, Be'arit

\$12 In memory of my father, Joel Hogg, top apiarist and friend to Israel - Jo Ann Graham, Littlefield, GA.
 \$10 Mr. and Mrs. Irving Ginsberg, Wilmington, NC, Sylvia Miller, W. Palm Beach, FL, Ruby and Rita Markowitz, NY.
 \$5 Shai Richardson, Charlotte, NC.
 \$250 In memory of my sister Sarah Kaplan - Ben Shura, Coté St. Luc, Canada.
 \$250 I.P. and V. J. Azevedo, Leicester.
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 NIS 17 In memory of Nina - CEE, Haifa.
 \$500 In honor of Alfred and Memory Shyman, former president of Chesed Tzedakah in Jerusalem - Montgomery Christian Fellowship Church, Montgomery, AL.
 \$75 In honor of children Joel and Shari of Amherst, NY - Irving and Elinor Reiner, Boca Raton, FL.
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Re: Laurence Alan Reece - A Solicitor

Notice is hereby given that an Application has been made to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for an Order under Section 47 of the Solicitors Act 1974. The said Application will be heard by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th March 1997 at the Courtroom, 60 Carey Street, London WC2, when the said Laurence Alan Reece should attend. Failing appearance by the said Laurence Alan Reece, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal may proceed in his absence to make such Order as the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal shall think fit. A copy of the Application and the documents in support may be obtained from the Clerk to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, 27/27B The Strand, London WC2A 1BA.

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BITS AND BYTES JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Aladdin announces joint cooperation with Bull CP8:
 Aladdin Knowledge Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq: ALDNF) recently announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Bull CP8, a division of Groupe Bull of France. According to the agreement, the two companies will cooperate on the development, promotion and distribution of PC smart card tools in compliance with the new PC/SC standard. Bull CP8 has a 60% market share in the field and Aladdin is a leading supplier of smart card development tools and applications for PCs.

Eurotrade Bank announces website: Israel's Eurotrade Bank has announced its new Internet site at www.euro-trade.co.il. The site is designed to provide people with information about foreign currencies. Eurotrade Bank is a private Israeli bank that offers a host of services to businesses and individuals.

International UNIX technology conference to take place in January: The International UNIX Technology Conference is scheduled for January 27, 1997 at the Exhibition Center in Tel Aviv. Speakers from companies such as Netscape, Oracle, SCO and Hewlett Packard will discuss this server's applications toward the year 2000. For more information, call (03) 638-5848/58.

Koor sells telemarketing system to Audiofon: Koor Telecommunications and Electronics, a subsidiary of Koor Industries (NYSE: KOR), recently reported that Audiofon of Germany has purchased several hundred thousand marks worth of its telemarketing software, MegaSale.

NetManage acquires Applimac's Internet technology: NetManage, Inc. (Nasdaq: NETM) of Cupertino, California recently announced that it has acquired Applimac Industries' (TASE: APCM) DoubleAgent application sharing technology, which allows two or more participants to work together simultaneously on Microsoft Windows 32-bit software applications over the World Wide Web. The DoubleAgent technology will be integrated into NetManage's Chameleon ATX family and other of the company's software products.

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	5-375
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	4.250	5.375
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German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

CURRENCY	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Banks
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6172	3.6758	3.78	3.742	3.8742
U.S. dollar (1000)	3.2284	3.2517	3.16	3.24	3.2680
German mark	2.0833	2.1170	2.04	2.15	2.1016
Pound sterling	5.4289	5.5145	5.33	5.80	5.4856
French franc	0.1714	0.1824	0.10	0.14	0.1225
Japanese yen (100)	2.6308	2.6708	2.75	2.92	2.8586
Dutch guilder	1.8593	1.8883	1.82	1.92	1.8724
Swiss franc	2.4171	2.4561	2.37	2.50	2.4364
Swedish krona	0.4720	0.4797	0.48	0.49	0.4755
Norwegian krona	0.5006	0.5087	0.49	0.52	0.5047
Danish krone	0.6448	0.6536	0.63	0.67	0.6489
Finnish mark	0.8677	0.7090	0.88	0.72	0.7037
Canadian dollar	2.3703	2.4086	2.32	2.45	2.3905
Australian dollar	2.5523	2.5240	2.53	2.57	2.5015
S. African rand	0.8919	0.7021	0.88	0.71	0.6983
Belgian franc (10)	1.0113	1.0227	0.99	1.05	1.0200
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9906	3.0084	2.90	3.06	2.9963
Italian lire (1000)	2.1185	2.1527	2.16	2.19	2.1325
Jordanian dinar	4.5000	4.8100	4.50	4.81	4.6700
Egyptian pound	0.9200	1.0000	0.92	1.00	1.0451
ECU	4.0138	4.0784	-	-	4.0458
Irish punt	5.5742	5.4628	5.26	5.54	5.4167
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4745	2.5145	2.43	2.55	2.4941

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Shares end lower on profit-taking in quiet session

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

DAN GERSTENFELD



Two-Sided index

Maof index

SHARES closed lower after the board yesterday on an unexpected strong round of profit-taking, traders said. The Two-sided index fell 1.19 percent or 2.51 points, to 209.02 on all share turnover of NIS 79 million against NIS 87m. on Wednesday. The Maof lost 1.30% to 217.0. "We were all expecting a technical correction after the market rose sharply over the last two months. Nobody expected such a drop and there is simply no logical explanation for such a fall," said one trader.

NETANYAHU

(Continued from Page 7) Palestinian since the 1993 secret talks in Norway until the middle of this year, who said that he tallied some 3,000 hours of meetings with Palestinian interlocutors. Netanyahu did not know any of the PLO leadership before taking office, and perhaps knew hardly any Palestinians at all. Hence, there was bound to be a learning curve which may not yet be complete, especially since the Likud has held more of an ideological bias against the PLO than Labor did.

Peace process would adversely affect those crucial and increasingly intricate ties. Furthermore, Israel's economy is much more linked to the Western industrialized states at a time that its body politic has embraced middle-class living with a vengeance. Yair Shamir, a former head of Scitex and son of Yitzhak, admitted that his father saw Israel's evolution to a bourgeois state as a betrayal of ideology. Once you have acquired a lot, you are not willing to sacrifice all for an ideological goal as you were when there was nothing to lose, Yair cited his father as saying.

Alongside Israel's relations with the US and the Arab world, a third set of pressures is neither foreign-related nor economic, but unstated. Specifically, in contradiction to what he believed when in opposition, Netanyahu now seems to believe that halting the peace process won't halt violence, but accelerate it. This is a crucial point. Ever since the September riots that seemed to demonstrate that the territories may turn into Bostata, policymakers now see the possibility of a breakdown in talks turning into pitched violence, with enclaves of settlements being turned into potential hostages. Therefore, ironically, the vulnerability of settlements have inadvertently become an impetus rather than obstacles to moving talks with the Palestinians forward.

When people inevitably ask whether Netanyahu believes "Hebron first is Hebron last," it seems clear that these three sets of pressures that have brought Netanyahu to where he is now will be accompanying him throughout the rest of the peace process. One US official seemed to reflect the view of many when he said he believes that Netanyahu swung around a Hebron deal because too much is at stake for Israel. "He's in the big league now," the official said about Netanyahu. "You can be an ideologue in the opposition. But when you are a prime minister, you have to adjust your ideological underpinnings. The world is putting tremendous stock in these talks. You cannot ignore this reality without a paying price in Israel's standing."

INDEED, the world is watching. Israel has much more to lose today than it did when it was a quasi-pariah state in the early '90s. In the wake of Oslo, it now has relations with a good portion of the Arab world, and therefore the risk of isolation and deterioration with unexpected consequences is much more evident. Critically, Israel's dependence upon the Pentagon is such that a chill in relations that would follow from a halt in the

whole equation. Yet, short of those situations, having responsibility for a country — as opposed to hectoring from Knesset rostrums in the opposition — means that Netanyahu is finding out that he has to look at the broader picture instead of just the feelings of people closest to him, such as his own brother-in-law. Vital interests, rather than ideology, have brought a reluctant Netanyahu to accept Oslo.

BEGINNING

(Continued from Page 7) realize there is little they can physically do to derail it themselves. "This is not Yamit," Aron admitted. "The government is not coming to tear down homes."

As a result, the reaction of the settlers will be very different. When the IDF finally pulls out the few dozen soldiers it still has in HI (the parts of Hebron due to be given to the Palestinians), the options of the settlers will be limited. They are not going to pull the soldiers back into the IDF outposts, or throw themselves down in front of the jeeps. They are not going to move into the Civil Administration building overlooking the city, or try and block the Palestinian police from denloving

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Bottom of the pile provides top soccer draw

DEREK FATTAL

EVEN though the season has not yet reached its halfway point, Betar Jerusalem's total domination of the National League has already convinced most soccer fans that the championship is a forgone conclusion.

Accordingly, the situation at the foot of the division is set to stimulate far more interest this weekend as the teams play out Round 14. Four matches are scheduled for today and the other four tomorrow.

The "match of the round" pits two clubs from the bottom of the heap against each other at Bloomfield Stadium, as Hapoel Tel Aviv takes on Hapoel Taiba.

Both sides had an eventful week. The Taibans who began the season on such a confident note already look set to have a grim battle on their hands if they are to avoid hurdling straight back to Division Two.

On Tuesday Polish coach Wojtek Lazarek was politely shown the door and his former assistant Benny Lam, brought in as Taiba's caretaker coach. Apparently the club's board felt that for all his tactical finesse Lazarek was simply unable to motivate his charges.

Few can argue with that conclusion after last Friday's pathetic performance against Hapoel Kfar Sava which ended in a 3-0 home defeat. Nevertheless, in addition to adding motivation, Lam may also have to provide the proverbial kick-in-the-backside to some of his playing staff.

The situation at Hapoel Tel Aviv is beginning to resemble some outlandish plot from the Ramat Aviv Gimmel television series. The former sporting gem of the Histrut is moving towards the conclusion of its pitiful decline from riches to rags.

The potential savior is none other than the dapper World Cup '70 star Mordechai Spiegler who has been shuttling between the Big Orange and Paris conducting purchase negotiations on behalf of a French investment consortium. Spiegler's rival in the bidding race for the one-time bastion of socialism is the Nimrod Dreyfus group.

Final-placed Hapoel Beit She'an will have a hard time taking any points from Maccabi Tel Aviv. Although the Tel Avivians are hardly playing at their best these days they should be able to come away from this afternoon's meeting with their third consecutive victory.

Rishon LeZion, positioned 13th - just above Hapoel Tel Aviv - has the hardest task of all entertaining leaders Betar Jerusalem tomorrow. Few Betar supporters have forgiven Rishon for the defeat it inflicted at Teddy late last season which effectively killed off the Jerusalem side's title challenge. All omens suggest that the day of retribution has come.

One spot above Rishon, Hapoel Jerusalem will be hoping to arrest a string of six straight defeats against Bnei Yehuda this afternoon at Teddy Stadium.

In other action teams from the Second Division and lower flights will be taking part in the seventh round of the State Cup.

This weekend's National League fixtures: Zefira v. Maccabi Be'er Sheva, 2:30 pm, today; Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Kfar Sava, 2 pm, today; Hapoel Tel Aviv v. Hapoel Taiba, Bloomfield Stadium, 2:30 pm, tomorrow; Hapoel Jerusalem v. Bnei Yehuda, Teddy Stadium, 2 pm, today; Ironi Kiryat Setaim v. Bnei Yehuda, Kiryat Setaim, 2 pm, tomorrow; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Maccabi Tel Aviv, 2 pm, today; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Maccabi Herzliya, Petah Tikva, 2:30 pm, tomorrow; Hapoel Be'er Sheva v. Hapoel Be'er Sheva, Kiryat Etzion, 3 pm, tomorrow.

National League

Team	P	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Dif.	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	13	11	2	0	30	8	22	35
Hapoel Petah Tikva	13	9	3	1	27	14	13	30
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	13	8	1	4	20	11	9	25
Maccabi Tel Aviv	13	7	4	2	22	14	8	25
Maccabi Petah Tikva	13	6	3	4	16	14	2	21
Bnei Yehuda	13	6	3	4	15	15	-1	21
Hapoel Haifa	13	6	1	6	21	18	3	19
Hapoel Kfar Sava	13	6	1	6	18	11	7	19
Maccabi Haifa	13	4	5	4	14	15	-1	17
Zefira	13	3	4	6	10	14	-4	13
Maccabi Herzliya	13	4	1	8	7	12	-5	13
Hapoel Jerusalem	13	4	1	8	11	20	-9	13
Ironi Rishon LeZion	13	4	1	8	13	25	-12	13
Hapoel Tel Aviv	13	2	4	7	7	16	-9	10
Hapoel Taiba	13	3	1	9	10	24	-14	10
Hapoel Beit She'an	13	2	3	8	9	15	-6	9

Zimbabwe humbles sorry England

South Africa recovers vs. India; Australia reeling from Ambrose assault

HARARE (Reuters) - England's tour plumed new depths yesterday as it was reduced to 137 for nine by Zimbabwe's seamers on the opening day of the second Test at Harare Sports Club.

Heath Streak undermined the top order with three for 34 and Guy Whittall took four for 12 from 13 overs of medium pace as England largely contributed to its own downfall with some wretched strokes.

Only John Crawley, unbeaten on 37, provides hope England may pass the 147 scored by Pakistan last year in Lahore, which is the lowest total against Zimbabwe since it became a Test-playing team in 1992.

On a muggy day ideal for swing bowling, Zimbabwe began England's problems when opener Nick Knight flicked loosely at Henry Olunga's first delivery to be caught down the leg side for 15.

Skipper Mike Atherton's nightmare tour continued when he became Whittall's first victim, caught at first slip for 13.

After being dropped at first slip, Alec Stewart (19) drilled a catch straight to cover in Streak's next over and England limped to lunch at 63 for three.

Things went from bad to worse in the afternoon when Graham Thorpe (five) spooned up a catch to short leg and Nasser Hussain edged a wide ball from Streak to the wicketkeeper when he had made 11.

Having arrived from Australia less than 48 hours previously as cover for injured all-rounder Ronnie Irani, Craig White came in with the scoreboard reading 73 for five.

White grafted his way to nine, but then edged Whittall to first slip to leave England reeling at 108 for six at tea.

Robert Croft gave good support to Crawley in the final session and the pair added 34, the highest stand of the innings before Croft lost patience and drove wildly at a wide ball from Whittall and held out to gully for 14.

Darren Gough aimed an ambitious sweep at leg-spinner Paul Strang to be bowled for two and one run later Alan Mullally offered up a tame caught and bowled to become Whittall's fourth victim.

Whittall is set to shatter his previous Test best of four for 70 and has exacted full reward for bowling on one side of the stumps and drifting the ball away from the right handers.

But there has been no real terror in the pitch and Zimbabwe player-coach Dave Houghton said: "There's no reason why you shouldn't be able to make three or four hundred here."



DEJECTED - England captain Mike Atherton leaves the crease after being caught at the first slip, while Zimbabwe's Guy Whittall celebrates. (Reuters)

of any substance was 49 for the sixth wicket between Hudson and McMillan. After the departure of McMillan, leg before to the seam of David Johnson, the rest of the South African innings fell away in a further 11 overs.

Prasad claimed the final scalp of Allan Donald, caught by Vikram Rathore at third slip, to register his third haul of five wickets or more in a Test innings.

Australia-West Indies West Indies fast bowler Curtly Ambrose made a stunning return to form by claiming five wickets to demoralize Australia on the first day of the third Test.

The veteran pace bowler tore through the top order as West Indies dismissed Australia for 208, 217, 218.

Bowling: Curtly Ambrose 24.5-7-55-5 (3rb), Ian Bishop 11-7-31-2 (2rb), Kenny Benjamin 19-2-64-1 (1nb), Courtney Walsh 14-0-43-0 (6nb), Jimmy Adams 1-0-4-0, Carl Hooper 5-1-14-0.

England first innings N. Knight 4, Flower b Olunga 15, M. Atherton c Campbell b Whittall 13, A. Stewart G. Flower b Streak 19, G. Thorpe A. Flower b Streak 11, G. Thorpe c Dekker b Streak 5, J. Crawley not out 37, C. White c Campbell b Whittall 2, R. Croft G. Flower b Whittall 14, D. Gough b Stang 2, M. Mullaly c and b Whittall 0, A. Mullaly not out 3, Extras (5-2-2-0-0-1) 12, Total for nine wickets: 137, Fall of wickets: 1-24 2-50 3-50 4-85 5-73, 6-84 7-128 8-138 9-164.

Bowling: Streak 19-34-3 (nb 2 w), Brandes 14-5-31-0, Olunga 9-1-23-1(nsb), Stang 18-5-31-1, Whittall 13-5-12-1.

Bowling: Glenn McGrath 6-3-6-1, Paul Reifel 5-0-21-0, Shane Warne 1-0-1-0, Jason Gillespie 1-1-0-0, Extras 1(b), Total: 29 runs for one wicket. Fall of wickets: 12.

United routs Forest, moves to 3rd

LONDON (Reuters) - Arsenal and Liverpool were held to frustrating draws yesterday while champions Manchester United crushed Nottingham Forest 4-0 to move into an ominous third place in the Premier League.

Arsenal drew 0-0 at Sheffield Wednesday in a disappointing evening match. The team remains second, three points behind leaders Liverpool with one game in hand.

Earlier in the day Liverpool fought back from a goal down but still only managed a 1-1 draw at home to unfancied Leicester.

In contrast, United took its goal tally from its last two games to nine with an emphatic win in Nottingham which rekindles their hopes of claiming their fourth English title in five years.

David Beckham gave the visitors the lead after 21 minutes, stealing into the back post where he latched onto a left-wing cross from Ryan Gigg and beat Forest goalkeeper Mark Crossley with a delightful lob.

United, which thrashed Sunderland 5-0 on Saturday and looks to have put a faltering spell behind itself, increased its lead through Nicky Butt before halftime and then dominated the second half against a Forest side languishing in bottom place despite its 2-1 win over Arsenal last weekend.

Norway's Ole Solskjaer made the score 3-0 with his 10th goal of the season and Andy Cole, making his first appearance since cracking a bone in his leg earlier this season, came off the substitutes' bench to score United's fourth.

It all made for a miserable return to the Forest line-up for Nigel Clough, back after a three-and-a-half-year absence at the club managed for so long by his father Brian.

United moves into third on 34 points, two points behind Arsenal and five points behind Liverpool, which was seriously out of sorts against Leicester.

Roy Evans's side fell behind to a second-half goal from Steve Claridge before in-form Stan Collymore saved the home side's blushes with an equalizer three minutes later - his seventh of the season.

Relegation-threatened Blackburn, which conquered the Premier League in the 1994-95 season thanks largely to the goals of Alan Shearer, ruined the England striker's return to Ewood Park by beating his current club Newcastle 1-0.

The match swung Blackburn's way deep into the second half when Kevin Gallacher grabbed a vital winner for the Lancashire side after a goalmouth scramble.

To add to the glee of the majority of a 30,000-strong crowd, Shearer was booked for a clumsy tackle on Jeff Kenna.

Two second-half goals from Italy's Gianfranco Zola gave Chelsea a 2-0 victory at Aston Villa, which had beaten Wimbledon 5-0 on the same ground on Saturday.

Everton lost 4-2 at troubled Middlesbrough while Coventry chalked up its third straight victory, beating Leeds 3-1 at Elland Road.

PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 0, Chelsea 2; Blackburn 1, Newcastle 0; Leeds 1, Coventry 3; Liverpool 1, Leicester 1; Middlesbrough 4, Everton 2; Nottingham Forest 0, Manchester United 4; Sunderland 2, Derby 0; Tottenham 3, Southampton 1; Wimbledon vs. West Ham postponed (frozen field); Sheffield Wednesday 0, Arsenal 0.

DIVISION ONE: Bradford 1, Sheffield United 2; Grimsby 1, Bolton 2; Ipswich 3, Crystal Palace 1; Manchester City 0, Port Vale 1; Oxford vs. Birmingham postponed (frozen field); Portsmouth 0, Swindon 1; Queens Park Rangers 3, Norwich 2; Reading 2, West Bromwich Albion 2; Southampton 0, Charlton 2; Stoke 1, Barnsley 0; Tranmere 1, Huddersfield 1; Wolves 3, Oxford United 1.

DIVISION TWO: Blackburn vs. Burnley postponed (frozen field); Bournemouth 1, Bristol Rovers 0; Bristol City 3, Shrewsbury 2; Bury vs. Crewe postponed (frozen field); Buxton vs. Bolton postponed (frozen field); Gillingham 1, Luton 2; Millwall 0, Peterborough 2; Plymouth 1, Brentford 0; Watford 0, Notts County 0; Wrexham 2, Stockport 3; Wycombe 0, Walsall 2; York vs. Preston postponed (frozen field).

DIVISION THREE: Barnet 1, Mansfield 1; Brighton 1, Colchester 1; Cambridge United vs. Scunthorpe postponed (frozen field); Cardiff 2, Torquay 0; Carlisle 1, Hartlepool 0; Chester vs. Rochdale postponed (frozen field); Doncaster 1, Scarborough 3; Fulham 1, Exeter 1; Hereford 0, Swanssea 1; Hull 2, Lincoln 1; Leyton Orient 2, Northampton 1; Wigan vs. Darlington postponed (frozen field).

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Dundee United 2, Motherwell 0; Dumfries 2, Hearts 3; Hibernian 0, Kilmarnock 2; Rangers 4, Raith 0; Aberdeen vs. Celtic.

Lakers regain share of first place

PHOENIX (Reuters) - Shaquille O'Neal and his Laker teammates gave their coach a share of first place in the Pacific Division for Christmas.

O'Neal scored 26 points and grabbed 16 rebounds and Eddie Jones added 24 points to lead Los Angeles to a phoenix-wrapped 108-87 rout of the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday.

"This was a Christmas present that I was hoping for, to be back in first place," Lakers coach Del Harris said. "Our guys played a very nice defensive game and Phoenix is not an easy team to defend."

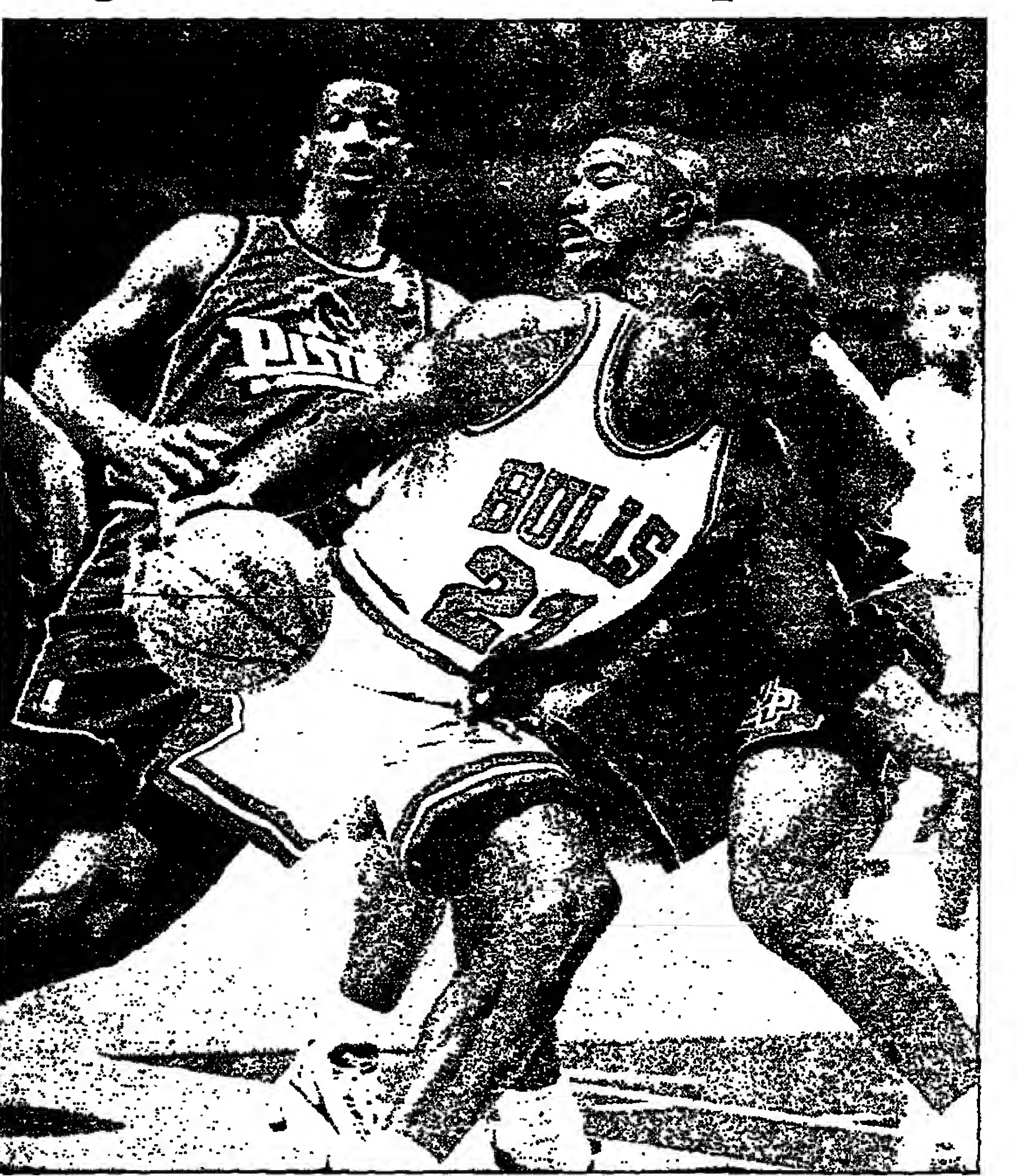
The Lakers raised their record against divisional opponents to a perfect 8-0 and their overall mark to 20-9 to move into a tie with Seattle atop the Pacific Division.

"We just hit our shots really well, played good defense and pressured them," said O'Neal, who was the dominant force on the court.

Los Angeles was in control most of the way, although the Suns cut the deficit to eight at 87-79 on Danny Manning's dunk with 6:30 to play.

But the Lakers responded with a 12-0 run as Jones scored five and O'Neal four, increasing the lead to a comfortable 20 points with 2:51 remaining.

"They were just toying with us out there," Suns coach Danny Ainge said. Sam Cassell scored 17 to pace the Suns, who have lost three in a row and five of their last seven games and are 0-3 against the Lakers this season.



RUNAWAY BULL - Michael Jordan drives into Detroit's Joe Dumars. (Reuters)

Pistons, who have not beaten Chicago since March 14, 1993.

Thorpe and Hill began the game with consecutive field goals to give Detroit a quick lead, but Chicago scored the next 11 points and never again trailed.

Despite owning the league's third-best record at 20-6, the Pistons fell four games behind the Bulls in the Central Division.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS: L.A. Lakers 108, Phoenix 87; Chicago 95, Detroit 83.

EASTERN CONFERENCE						WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division			Central Division			Midwest Division			Pacific Division		
W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Miami	20	7	.741	7		Houston	21	6	.773	-	-
New York	19	7	.731	7		Utah	20	8	.789	-	-
Washington	13	13	.500	6	4	Minnesota	10	17	.370	11	11
Orlando	10	18	.353	8		Dallas	9	16	.360	11	
Philadelphia	7	18	.280	12		Denver	5	19	.206	13	
New Jersey	6	17	.261	12		San Antonio	6	18	.250	13	
Boston	5	19	.208	13		Vancouver	6	22	.214	15	
Central Division						Pacific Division					
Chicago	25	3	.883	2		L.A. Lakers	20	9	.690	-	-
Detroit	20	6	.769	2		Seattle	20	9	.690	5	
Cleveland	17	9	.654	7		Portland	14	14	.500	5	11
Atlanta	15	10	.600	8		Sacramento	11	17	.393	8	11
Charlotte	13	11	.578	9		Golden State	10	17	.370	9	
Memphis	15	11	.576	9		L.A. Clippers	10	18	.357	9	
Indiana	12	12	.500	11		Phoenix	8	19	.296	11	
Toronto	9	18	.333	15							

Navy downs California in Aloha Bowl

HONOLULU (AP) - Quarterback Ben Fay ran for two fourth-quarter touchdowns and Navy had 646 yards of total offense in a 42-38 victory over California in the Aloha Bowl.

The high-scoring game Wednesday was a contrast in halves. The two teams combined for 63 points in the first half with California (6-6) holding a 35-28 lead.

Over the final two periods, the only scoring came on Fay's two TDs and a 41-yard field goal by Cal's Ryan Longwell.

Fay scored on runs of 2 and 10 yards and completed 5 of 8 passes for 118 yards. Fay's second rushing TD, with 1:41 left, was set up by his biggest pass play of the game, a 52-yarder to Cory Schemm with two minutes left.

The Bears appeared to have the game in hand as they started the fourth period with a 38-28 lead. But Fay led the Middles in scoring drives of 80 and 84 yards.

Cal totaled 434 yards of offense. Pat Barnes completed 27 of 37 passes for 313 yards and three touchdowns.

California's Delta O'Neal set the tone for the seasaw game by returning the opening kickoff of a bowl-record 100 yards. It bettered the previous mark of 94 yards set by Hema Heimuli of BYU in 1992.

After missing a field goal on its first possession, Navy got a 7-yard run by Tim Cannada after Omar Nelson set up the score with a 57-yard run.

A 6-yard pass from Barnes to Bobby Shaw gave the Bears a short-lived 13-7 lead. The Middles responded with two scores - a 1-yard plunge by Chris McCoy and a 4-yard run by Ross Scott.

California bounced back with two scores to move ahead, 28-21, on a 20-yard pass from Barnes to Sean Bullard and 31-yard run by O'Neal.

Navy tied it at 28-28 on McCoy's 2-yard run that capped a 75-yard drive highlighted by a 62-yard hookup from McCoy to Schemm.

Scottie Pippen scored 27 points and Michael Jordan added 23 as the Bulls rolled to victory in a meeting of the top two teams in the Eastern Conference.

Dennis Rodman, sporting red and green striped hair for the holiday, pulled down 22 rebounds. He also had 11 points and seven assists for the Bulls, who improved to 12-1 at home and a league-best 25-3 overall.

Grant Hill scored 27 points, while Lindsey Hunter and Otis Thorpe added 17 apiece for the

Vilna'i: IDF prepared for Syrian attack

STEVE RODAN

THE IDF has increased its preparedness for war in the wake of the Syrian redeployment along Mount Hermon, replenishing exhausted ammunition supplies, introducing advanced artillery and upgraded tanks and improving exercises, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i said yesterday.

Introducing the IDF plan for 1997, Vilna'i said the military has been preparing for a confrontation with Syria since August, when Damascus moved a division from Beirut to the slopes of Mount Hermon. He said the IDF envisions a scenario whereby Syria attempts a surprise attack on the Golan with a massive amount of ground troops and tanks.

"The likelihood of a war with Syria is greater than it was a year or two ago," Vilna'i said.

The IDF response, Vilna'i said, has been twofold. First, it has determined targets to attack within Syria should war erupt. Second, the IDF has increased the level of its standing army while providing soldiers with more advanced equipment.

The result, the deputy chief said, is that the army has been able to respond to threats on several fronts simultaneously.

"We were able to handle the tensions in the North and the September battles [with the Palestinian Police] in the territories without mobilizing the

reserves," he said. "This is seen as a great advantage."

Vilna'i stressed that the IDF has not been on alert for war. Instead, he said, the military is improving its capability in case of such a development.

The IDF standing army has increased 30 percent over the last few years, Vilna'i said, and entire corps such as the air force and intelligence depend solely on recruits. He acknowledged that the increased number of recruits has been accompanied by a lack of motivation to serve in combat field units.

Vilna'i said the benefits of a large standing army were stressed during the recent tensions with Syria. Such a force, he said, could manage to repel a massive attack, including the use of Syrian missiles, until the reserves are mobilized.

"The IDF is a reserve army and this principle hasn't changed," Vilna'i said. "A standing army is very expensive. We see the benefits of a large, trained standing army, equipped with the best weapons. It is the first line of defense. The latest alert [in August in the North] only sharpened this concept."

Vilna'i said that during 1997 the IDF will receive several F-15I fighter-jets, Israel's most advanced warplane, Black Hawk helicopters, Merkava III tanks and MRLS artillery.



IDF soldiers training in the North prepare to take control of a room yesterday during maneuvers in which they practiced fighting in populated areas. (Yossi Tzafrir)

High Court rejects petition against film on war widows

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice refused to forbid last night's screening of Imri Amir's film *Sex, Lies and Dinner* on cable television, saying the outraged sensibilities of war widows, whom the film claims to portray, are not enough to justify the court's engaging in censorship.

Justices Shlomo Levin, Yitzhak Zamir and Tova Strasberg-Cohen ruled yesterday on a petition by the Organization of IDF Widows, which charged that the film dishonored the memory of men who had died in the service of their country by slandering their widows.

The film, which was approved by the Cable Programming Council, portrays IDF widows as having one

overriding characteristic/said attorney Alon Geleit: "An obsessive preoccupation with sex." As such, he said, it is likely to lead to sexual harassment of the widows, and may even lead their children to regard them with suspicion.

"In the name of freedom of expression, art and creativity, our honor and our families' honor is being trampled," said organization chairwoman Prima Cohen in an emotional speech to the court.

Being a war widow, she said, means constant pain, from the lack of someone with whom to share the

joy of a child's bar mitzva to the lack of someone with whom to share the fear for a child in the army.

Having lost so much, "all that is left us is our honor," Cohen concluded. "But now they are stealing even this from us in the name of freedom of expression."

After the hearing, Amir tried to justify the film, saying he had received many calls of support from IDF widows.

"The drama is not against war widows," he said. "It's for them. I show the war widows as human beings."

"No, as animals!" interrupted Ida Asara, one of the widows. "Not as human beings, but as animals!"

Bibi trades barbs with Christian leaders

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE President's annual New Year's reception for the heads of the Christian communities is usually a staid event replete with platitudes. But this year the speakers broke the mold with a sharp interchange between the government and the churches.

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Yigal Bibi opened the exchange yesterday with a thinly veiled attack on church leaders for their political statements. Bibi's comments were interpreted by many Christian observers as referring to Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, who last week issued a Christmas message that was highly critical of Israel, saying Israeli authorities had transformed the Palestinian towns into virtual prisons.

However, Bibi did not come out and name Sabbah, or even indicate his displeasure with church leaders who took sides on political issues. Instead, rather than openly criticize the churches, he issued an appeal to the Palestinian Authority not to encourage the churches to become involved in politics.

"I call upon the heads of the Palestinian Authority not to encourage the churches to demon-

strate and take positions on issues which are clearly of a political nature," Bibi said.

Bibi also reiterated the Israeli position that Jerusalem must remain undivided, but he couched this message, too, in diplomatic terms, saying the holy city had to be united not just physically, but spiritually, with brotherhood and love between all believers.

Asked if he felt that Bibi's message had been directed at him, Sabbah responded that issues which Bibi might have been referring to as political were those which affected the daily lives of the communities led by the church officials. The Israeli authorities had an obligation to find security measures other than closures, which only resulted in increased violence.

Speaking a little more diplomatically, Greek Patriarch Diodoros I openly condemned acts of terror and acknowledged that it was such acts which brought on strict security measures. However, in a message read by Metropolitan Timothy, secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, Diodoros questioned Bibi's assertion that Israel had guaranteed freedom of access to the holy places.

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